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President's Message

When Eric Walters began his drive to establish a new birding group to be called the Illinois Ornithological Society back in the winter of 1991–92, he speculated that there were then some 240,000 people in Illinois with some interest in birds. At the time a national survey estimated that there were more than 1.2 million birding enthusiasts nationwide. A more recent estimate last year by the National Park Service claimed that birding is the most popular sport in America with 40 million adherents compared with the sport in second place, golf which 12 million play. There are a lot of us out there.

Based on that estimate and the fact that neighboring but much less populous states, Minnesota and Wisconsin had state birding groups with memberships of over 1200 and 1400 respectively, Eric believed IOS had a potential membership of at least 1200 and set an initial goal of 700 members. Today we have just over 500 members.

The question is why so few members? We know that there are more than 300 ABA members living in Illinois who are not members of IOS. One might ask whether IOS is competing for members with other organizations like the Illinois Audubon Society, the Chicago Ornithological Society, DuPage Birding Club and Evanston North Shore Bird Club, or even groups like Bird Conservation Network. But Minnesota and Wisconsin are in a similar position. Minnesota Ornithologists Union web site lists 22 other bird clubs in-state and Wisconsin Society for Ornithology lists 31.

At 500 members IOS is well able to maintain its current level of activities. The *Meadowlark* will continue to be published four times a year, as will *Wings Over The Prairie*, and we will continue to have a field trip program, an Annual Meeting, and to be IORC's institutional home. But IOS was conceived to do so much more. Our mission is to record Illinois birdlife and to promote the scientific, educational and recreational aspects of ornithology. The recording of Illinois birdlife part of our mission is well served as is the promotion of the recreational aspects of ornithology. It is the scientific and educational parts of our mission that need work.

Two things hold us back. The first is funding and the second is more people actively participating in our activities. All it would take to solve the funding issue is for each of you to recruit one new member for IOS. This should not be difficult. We all know birders who are not IOS members. Just as soon as we publish the Membership Directory, which is planned for this year, it will be easy to check who is and who is not a member. I encourage each and every one of you to actively recruit your friends. At $25 a year, membership is a bargain, if only to get the *Meadowlark*.

As to more active participation, more on that later.

Good birding.

Michael Hogg

Letter from the Editor

On approaching a rare bird

A Burrowing Owl in Champaign County! If you hear that news and you're anywhere near (or maybe far away from) central Illinois, you're out the door and in your car with binoculars, scope and possibly, a camera.

The adrenalin pumping inside you might urge you to jump out of the car and get as close as you can to snap a picture of the bird to prove that you've seen it.

As birders, we hopefully all know that's not the way to approach a bird. A cautious, slow, quiet approach is always best when trying to see a rare bird, or any bird for that matter. But sometimes we do get overzealous and forget that rule, which can have some unfortunate consequences. The aforementioned Burrowing Owl, for example, was spooked by an overzealous birder. It flew off and was never seen again. Yet a few other birders were able to get good photos of the owl without approaching it with too much vigor, without even getting out of the car.

Now, for those of you who didn't get to see the owl and are experiencing a sense of indignation, where does that indignation come from? Are you upset because someone chased the bird away and then you couldn't add it to your list? Or are you upset because the bird might have suffered undue stress? I admit in my case it's a little bit of both. These situations serve to remind us how fragile the birds we love to see really are, how they endure so many kinds of stresses in their lives.

Yet, there's no sense admonishing someone else for something we may have done ourselves at one time in the heat of birding passion. We're all human and make mistakes. Let's try to remain calm in the midst of a frenetic birding world so more can enjoy the experience, and perhaps the bird we seek feels just a bit more secure.

And, hey, you can always read about it here in *Meadowlark*, in case you didn't see it.

Sheryl DeVore

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About Our Cover:

Peter Olson created the Burrowing Owl cover for this issue. Peter, who serves on the IOS Board of Directors, is the Preparator at the Northern Illinois University Art Museum. His work has been showcased in more than 100 art exhibits in the past decade, including the juried Birds in Art show at the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum.

Join IOS Today:

Members of the Illinois Ornithological Society receive *Meadowlark*, the quarterly journal, plus *Wings Over The Prairie*, the IOS newsletter. Members are also invited to special field trips, the annual meeting, and other IOS functions. For information on how to join, please see the Inside Back Cover.

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The effect of temperature on abundance and food choice of birds at feeders in northeastern Illinois

by David Joseph Horn, Gared W. Bell, Dezarae N. Helm, Stacey E. Hoth, Danelle J. Johnson, Eric V. Kingsbury, Jennifer A. Kraft, Jason A. Leifheit, Theresa M. Mikalauskas, Jamie D. Stubis, Sara R. Sully, Danielle L. Swanson and RaVonda Turks

In 2001, more than 40 million Americans over the age of 16 watched birds around their homes and spent more than $2 billion on birdseed (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2002). As feeding birds has become more popular, the amount of scientific research on bird feeding has increased including studies on feeder and seed preferences of birds (Geis 1980, Horn 1995, Horn et al. 2002), and how weather influences feeding activity (Leck 1978). For example, Geis (1980) found that two of the most attractive seeds to birds that use feeders in Maryland are black-oil sunflower and white proso millet. Leck (1978) observed increased numbers of visits to a feeder during snowfall and temperatures below freezing.

While seed preferences, and the influence of temperature on feeder activity, have been researched, few studies have examined how changes in winter temperature may influence food choice. Different bird foods have different fat contents, and therefore, it might be expected that birds switch their diets during colder periods so as to better meet their increased energetic demands. Our study examined food preferences of birds using feeders in northeastern Illinois, the effects of temperature on abundances of birds at feeders, and whether temperature influences food choice. We predicted that food preferences of birds in Illinois would be similar to those found elsewhere, and that as temperature decreased, birds would be more abundant at feeders and switch to a food with a higher fat content. Results from this study can be used to make more informed decisions about the types of foods to provide for backyard birds, and how preferred foods may change with varying weather conditions.

A Downy Woodpecker feeds on suet in Texico, Illinois, Jefferson County. Suet was a less popular food choice among birds in the authors' research. Photo by Bowie Hannah.

Methods

The study was conducted at six houses in mostly suburban neighborhoods within the cities of Downers Grove, Montgomery (2), Naperville, Rockford, and Wayne, in northeastern Illinois. At each house, four ground platform feeders were placed 3 m apart from one another in a straight line. We also attempted to place feeders at equal distances to trees and shrubs, but no closer than 3 m from the base of any tree or shrub. The platform feeders were made by Backyard Nature Products, and measured 0.52 m long by 0.52 m wide by 0.05 m tall. Each feeder was filled with one of four different types of bird food: black-oil sunflower, white proso millet, whole peanuts, and peanut suet cakes. The foods selected are preferred foods of birds that use feeders (Geis 1980, Horn et al. 2002). Black-oil sunflower, white proso millet, and whole peanuts were filled in the feeder so that they covered the entire base of the feeder, and were several layers thick. A single peanut suet cake was placed in the feeder containing suet. Because feeder position influences bird abundance (Cowie and Simons 1991, Dunn and Hussell 1991), the food type within each feeder was rotated in a systematic order (millet ÷ suet ÷ sunflower ÷ peanuts ÷ millet, etc.) after each week. Initial food type in each feeder was established randomly.

Feeders were monitored from a window inside the house during an eight-week period from 21 January through 17 March 2002. Four 90-minute monitoring sessions took place at each house each week. With few exceptions, two of the weekly monitoring sessions began no earlier than sunrise, and ended no later than three hours after sunrise (referred to as early-monitoring sessions). The remaining two weekly monitoring sessions took place anytime from three hours after sunrise to sunset (late-monitoring sessions).

We sampled birds early and later in the day to account for possible variation in activity levels among species with time of day. An early and late monitoring session could take place on the same day, but two consecutive early or late monitoring sessions on the same day were not permitted. During each monitoring session, we recorded the maximum number of individuals of each species we could account for at each feeder or on the ground within 1 m of the feeder (e.g., if a Black-capped Chickadee, was seen multiple times flying to and from a feeder filled with sunflower seed, it would be recorded as 1 chickadee unless the observer could simultaneously see >1 chickadees in the surrounding area using the feeder. If a single chickadee was seen at a feeder and then left, and one hour later a single chickadee was seen at a feeder again, only one total chickadee would be recorded during the monitoring session (Horn 1999). Such a counting approach is conservative, and most likely resulted in undercounting the total number of individuals visiting a feeder. We also recorded the temperature before each monitoring session. If a mammal approached the feeders during the monitoring period it was chased away. We did not monitor the feeders for five minutes after chasing away the mammal, and five minutes was added on to the total monitoring time.

To determine food preferences, we calculated 95% confidence intervals of the mean abundance of each species at each feeder per monitoring session. If confidence intervals between feeders with different foods did not overlap, we considered birds to have a preference for one food over another. To determine if bird abundance at feeders changed with temperature, we calculated 95% confidence intervals of the mean abundance at each feeder per monitoring session for the total number of individuals of all species combined, total number of species, and abundances of individual species when the temperature was <0 °C and >0 °C. If confidence intervals between feeders of the same food type at <0 °C and >0 °C did not overlap, we considered temperature to influence bird abundance. Temperature was considered to influence food choice, if food preference changed from one temperature category to another, as indicated through non-overlapping confidence intervals (e.g., if Black-capped Chickadee abundance at the sunflower and peanut feeders was equal [as measured by confidence intervals] at >0 °C, but greater at the peanut than sunflower feeder at <0 °C, seed preference changed with temperature). Confidence intervals were calculated by taking the mean from all monitoring sessions from all six residences combined (n=188; the total number of monitoring sessions should have been 192, however, 4 monitoring sessions were removed from analysis because they were considerably longer than 90 minutes). We used Microsoft Excel 2000 to determine confidence intervals. Only the 10 most common species were used in the analysis.

Results

We made 6,691 observations of 22 species (Table 1). The ten most common species in decreasing order of abundance were European Starling, House Sparrow, Mourning Dove, Dark-eyed Junco, Black-capped Chickadee, House Finch, Red-winged Blackbird, American Crow, Blue Jay, and Northern Cardinal (Table 2).

Northern Cardinal and House Finch preferred black-oil sunflower above all other food types, while Blue Jay preferred whole peanuts. Mourning Dove preferred black-oil

Table 1:

Mean number of birds of each species observed per monitoring session at black-oil sunflower, white proso millet, whole peanut, and peanut suet feeders combined at six houses in northeastern Illinois during the winter of 2002.

Species	Mean[A]	SE[B]
Mourning Dove, *Zenaida macroura*	2.8	0.3
Red-bellied Woodpecker, *Melanerpes carolinus*	0.1	0.0
Downy Woodpecker, *Picoides pubescens*	0.2	0.0
Northern Flicker, *Colaptes auratus*	0.0	0.0
Blue Jay, *Cyanocitta cristata*	0.5	0.1
American Crow, *Corvus brachyrhynchos*	0.5	0.1
Tufted Titmouse, *Baeolophus bicolor*	0.1	0.0
Black-capped Chickadee, *Poecile atricapilla*	1.0	0.1
Red-breasted Nuthatch, *Sitta canadensis*	0.0	0.0
White-breasted Nuthatch, *Sitta carolinensis*	0.1	0.0
European Starling, *Sturnus vulgaris*	23.4	1.8
Northern Cardinal, *Cardinalis cardinalis*	0.4	0.1
American Tree Sparrow, *Spizella arborea*	0.0	0.0
White-throated Sparrow, *Zonotrichia albicollis*	0.1	0.1
Dark-eyed Junco, *Junco hyemalis*	1.4	0.2
Brown-headed Cowbird, *Molothrus ater*	0.1	0.1
Red-winged Blackbird, *Agelaius phoeniceus*	0.5	0.2
Common Grackle, *Quiscalus quiscula*	0.3	0.1
Purple Finch, *Carpodacus purpureus*	0.1	0.0
House Finch, *Carpodacus mexicanus*	0.8	0.2
American Goldfinch, *Carduelis tristis*	0.1	0.0
House Sparrow, *Passer domesticus*	3.2	0.4

[A] n = 188 monitoring sessions. [B] Standard error.

sunflower and white proso millet. Dark-eyed Junco preferred sunflower, millet, and peanuts over peanut suet. European Starling showed a sequential food preference. Peanuts were the most preferred food followed by suet, and finally sunflower and millet. House Sparrow preferred sunflower and millet relative to peanuts, and peanuts relative to suet. The most favored foods of the American Crow were peanuts and suet, followed by sunflower, and finally millet. Black-capped Chickadee preferred black-oil sunflower and whole peanuts, followed by millet, and finally suet. Red-winged Blackbird had no seed preference.

We found no differences in the total number of individuals of all species combined, total number of species, and abundances of individual species when the temperature was <0 °C compared with >0 °C (and therefore, no table of confidence intervals is given). Figure 1 is representative of the relationships found between temperature and bird abundance. We also found no differences in food preference of all species combined, total number of species, and abundances of individual species when the temperature was <0 °C compared with >0 °C.

Discussion

Numerous studies have found increased whole-organism basal and summit metabolic rates of small birds during the winter compared with other seasons (Dawson and O'Connor 1996, Liknes et al. 2002). Because of the increased energetic demands required to maintain elevated metabolic rates (Williams and Tieleman 2000), we predicted that there would be greater activity at feeders during colder periods. However, we found no effect of temperature on abundance at feeders. We also predicted that birds would switch to foods with higher fat contents during colder periods, but we found no effect of temperature on food choice. One reason for our results may be that the winter of 2001-2002 was one of the warmest on record and had few days with snow cover. Perhaps birds had built up ample winter fat stores prior to cold spells (Dawson and O'Connor 1996), and thus, did not have to increase feeding visits.

In our study, six species preferred black-oil sunflower, five species preferred whole peanuts, three species preferred white proso millet, and one species preferred peanut suet. Thus, when providing seed on the ground, a mixture containing sunflower, peanuts, and millet may attract the greatest diversity of birds. The food preferences we observed are similar to those reported by Geis (1980) in Maryland, Horn et al. (2002) in Iowa, and Dunn and Tessaglia-Hymes (1999) in a summary of data from Project Feeder Watch, a continent-wide feeder survey. For eight species, food preferences in our study were considered favorite feeder foods in the study by Dunn and Tessaglia-Hymes (where a favorite feeder food was selected on >1/3 of feeder visits). Unlike our study, however, Dunn and Tessaglia-Hymes found suet to be an infrequent food choice by crows, and whole peanuts and black-oil sunflower to be infrequent choices of juncos (although, Horn et al. [2002] found a higher occurrence of juncos at houses with sunflower seed than those without). Easy access to suet may be one reason why it was the preferred food by crows.

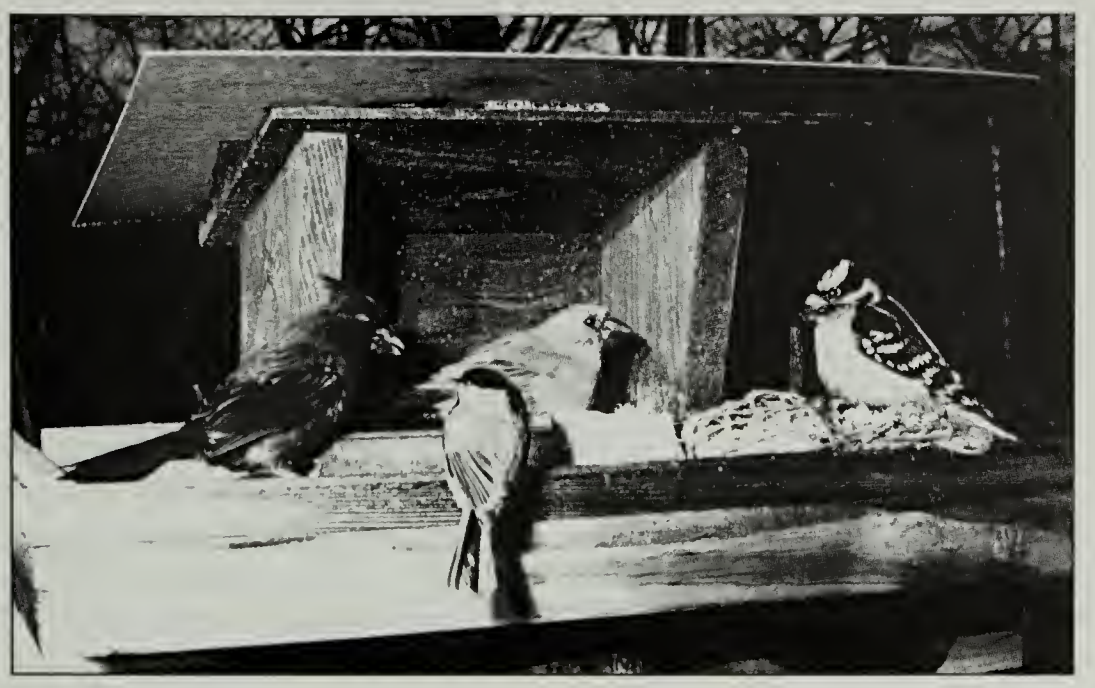
One surprising result was the small number of species that preferred suet. Horn et al. (2002) found 12 of 22 species, including Black-capped Chickadee, European Starling, and House Sparrow, more likely to occur at houses where suet was offered. One reason why suet

Table 2:

Mean and 95% confidence intervals of the 10 most common bird species observed per monitoring session at feeders containing black-oil sunflower, white proso millet, whole peanuts, and peanut suet at six houses in northeastern Illinois during the winter of 2002.

	Black-oil sunflower			White proso millet			Whole peanuts			Peanut suet		
Species	UCL[A]	Mean	LCL[B]	UCL	Mean	LCL	UCL	Mean	LCL	UCL	Mean	LCL
Mourning Dove	1.2	1.0*C	0.7	2.0	1.6*	1.2	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.0
Blue Jay	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.4*	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
American Crow	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.2*	0.1	0.3	0.3*	0.2
Black-capped Chickadee	0.7	0.5*	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.4	0.3*	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.0
European Starling	1.4	1.0	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.2	21.5	18.7*	15.9	4.5	3.4	2.3
Northern Cardinal	0.4	0.3*	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Dark-eyed Junco	0.6	0.5*	0.3	0.7	0.5*	0.3	0.4	0.3*	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.0
Red-winged Blackbird	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.7	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
House Finch	0.9	0.7*	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0
House Sparrow	1.9	1.5*	1.1	2.1	1.6*	1.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0

[A] 95% upper confidence limit; n = 188 monitoring sessions. [B] 95% lower confidence limit.
[C] * indicates preferred food(s).

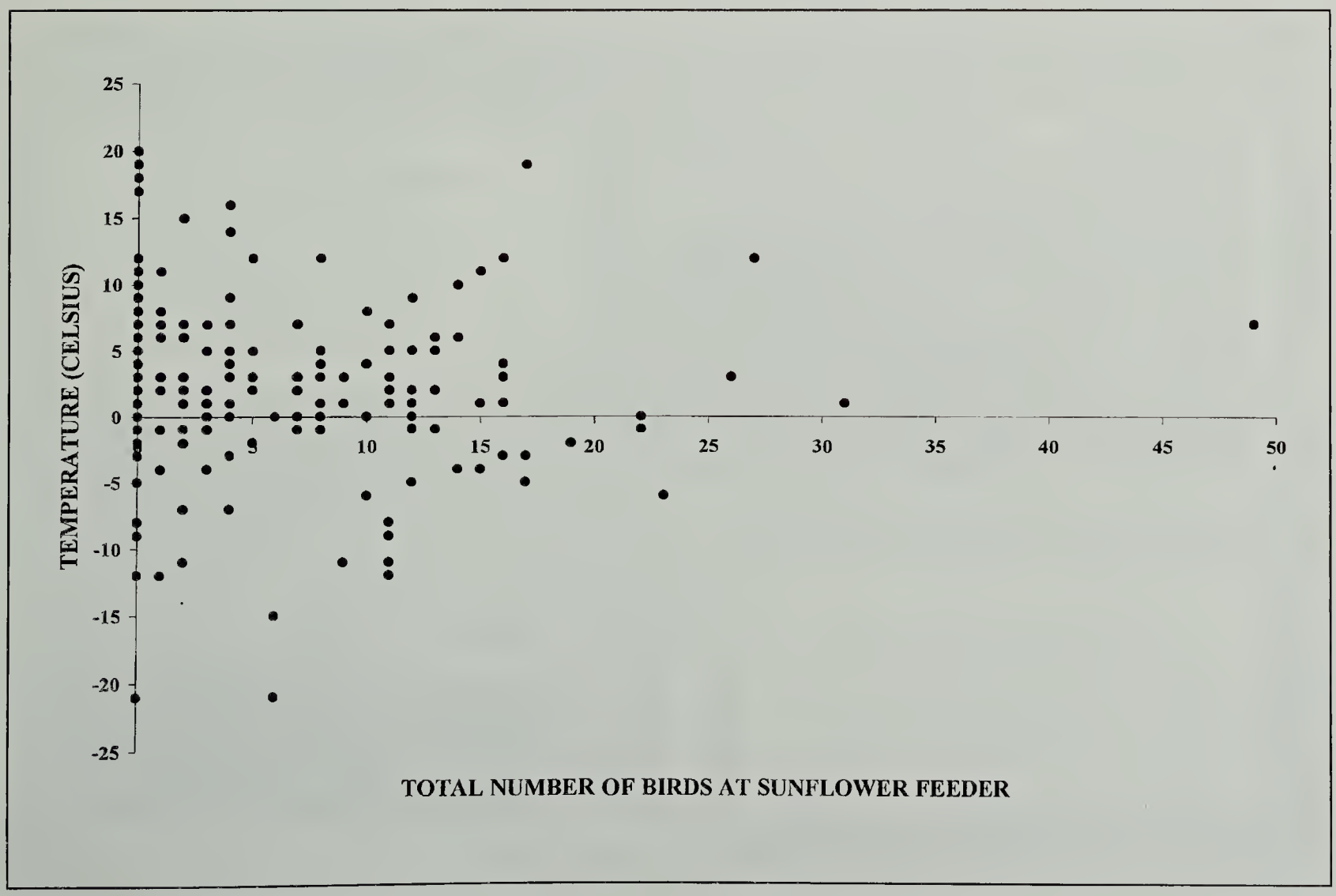


A pair of Northern Cardinals, a Black-capped Chickadee, and a Downy Woodpecker use a feeder in Texico, Illinois, Jefferson County. Northern Cardinal and Black-capped Chickadee were among the 10 most common birds seen at feeders during the authors' research. Photo by Bowie Hannah.

may have been less popular in our study was the means in which it was provided to birds. Generally, suet is provided in a suet feeder around a tree as opposed to a platform feeder on the ground. Moreover, woodpeckers, a group of birds with a high affinity for suet (Horn 1999), were not common in our study.

Results from this study can be used to make more informed decisions about the food types to provide birds during the winter. The most common species in our study preferred black-oil sunflower and whole peanuts followed by millet, and then suet. Future studies should examine how temperature influences abundance of birds and their food choice during prolonged cold spells, and long periods with snow cover. In addition, studies should compare food consumption and choice in each of the four seasons.

Figure 1:
Scatter plot of the total number of individuals of all bird species combined observed each monitoring session at sunflower feeders with temperature at six houses in northeastern Illinois during the winter of 2002.



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Laughing Gull

Montrose Harbor, Chicago,
Cook County. 19 April 2003.
Photo by Eric Walters.

See Field Notes page 150 for additional sightings.

Glaucous Gull

Evanston, Cook County. 29 March 2003.
Photo by Eric Walters.

See Field Notes page 150 for additional sightings.

A Christmas Bird Count marathon: part 2

by Kelly J. McKay

"UNFORTUNATELY, WITHIN MANY OF THE COUNT CIRCLES IN WHICH I HAVE PARTICIPATED OVER THE YEARS, THE COMMON THEME IS A CONSTANT AND CONTINUING LOSS OF NATURAL HABITAT TO HUMAN DEVELOPMENT – A VERY SAD STATE OF AFFAIRS FOR THOSE OF US WHO CARE ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT"

Kelly J. McKay

Editor's Note: *We last left Kelly on Christmas Day 2002 adding Monk Parakeets to his life bird list while on the Chicago Lakefront, Illinois CBC. Kelly continues his journeys in Andalusia below trying to break the record for most CBCs ever done by a person in a single season.*

December 26 - The Andalusia, Illinois-Iowa CBC was the fifth count I compiled during the 2002/2003 CBC marathon. At 4:15 a.m., I drove to my count territory of upland forest, agricultural land, small floodplain, and riverine habitat, on one of the coldest days of the count period. After nine consecutive CBCs with substantial winds, we finally enjoyed weak winds and seasonably mild temperatures. I had a very good day, recording 61 species. Highlights for the day included a single Trumpeter Swan, 1 Long-eared Owl, Loggerhead and Northern Shrikes, 1 Hermit Thrush, 36 White-throated Sparrows, 5 White-crowned Sparrows, and 4 Eurasian Tree Sparrows.

December 27 - At 3:15 a.m., I was on my way to meet Steve Hager, who helped me with the Western Mercer County, Illinois-Iowa CBC, the sixth count for which I was a compiler. My territory in this circle is extremely habitat- rich. It contains substantial amounts of upland and bottomland forest, as well as a large stretch of the Mississippi River. Much amount of wetland habitat and smaller areas of grassland are also present. Like virtually all CBCs in the Midwest, this count also had a significant agricultural component. For the second day in a row, the weather cooperated with seasonable temperatures and light wind. Although waterfowl were extremely scarce today, we were still able to identify 56 species. Among the more interesting finds were 115 Bald Eagles, 7 Wilson's Snipe, 2 Long-eared Owls, 6 Carolina Wrens, 1 Hermit Thrush, and 105 Cedar Waxwings as well as Song (44), Swamp (41), Eurasian Tree- (25), and Harris's (1) Sparrows and 6 Rusty Blackbirds.

December 28 - After only four hours of sleep, I left at 3:30 a.m to drive 2.5 hours to meet Weir Nelson's field party for the North Linn, Iowa CBC. Once again, we had a favorable weather forecast. This rural territory is characterized by large areas of agricultural land with relatively small scattered woodlots. Considering the fact that this CBC lacks a major water body and therefore has low waterfowl diversity, we were still able to identify 45 species. The only notable species were Long-eared Owl, Carolina and Winter Wrens, and White-throated Sparrow.

December 29 - After five hours of sleep, I headed back to the south suburbs of Chicago at 3:15 a.m. for a three-hour drive and my 15th CBC of the season in Thorn Creek, Illinois. The end of this count marked the three-fourths completion point for this mentally and physically grueling endeavor. Although the weather was very cooperative, with unusually mild temperatures and a light wind, my results from this count were dismal (33 species). For the second time this year, my group failed to observe at least 40 species. The territory I covered at Thorn Creek was completely devoid of all habitat types except open agricultural land. In an alarming trend, these open agricultural fields are even disappearing here, being replaced by massive suburban subdivisions, which have virtually no vegetation and are largely paved. Unfortunately, within many of the count circles in which I have participated over the years, the common theme is a constant and continuing loss of natural habitat to human development – a very sad state of affairs for those of us who care about the environment. The only highlights here were a single Hermit Thrush, 4 Lapland Longspurs, and 4 Snow Buntings.

During my drive home, I was thoroughly exhausted and looking forward to having the next day off. In fact, the knowledge I would have a day off may have been my saving grace as I wondered whether those who questioned my mental stability for thinking I could complete this CBC adventure, were right.

December 30 - After 10 hours of sleep, I was rested and eager to continue the CBC marathon. I left

home at 10:30 p.m. for a 7.5-hour drive to extreme southern Illinois for the next two days of CBCs. The first was the Mermet Lake, Illinois-Kentucky CBC. The weather forecast for the next two days in southern Illinois called for periodic heavy rains. Go figure. Two hours north of Mermet Lake, I begin to encounter heavy rain squalls and high winds. As predicted, this entire count was conducted during intermittent torrential rains (2-3 inches) along with occasional gusty winds. The temperatures however remained mild, which was nice, since I spent the whole day drenched. Pepsi and Vivarin were again on my menu for the day. The habitat in my territory consisted of scattered woodlots and considerable amounts of agriculture; however, I also had the bottomlands of Mermet Lake, as well as a stretch of the Ohio River. Once again, a fairly good diversity of waterfowl resulted in a rather successful day given the conditions (66 species). Noteworthy birds included 5 Canvasbacks, 1 Red-shouldered Hawk, 1 Thayer's Gull, 10 Carolina and 4 Winter Wrens, 3 Hermit Thrushes, 65 Field Sparrows, and 36 Eastern Meadowlarks. Additionally, we had some southern Illinois specialties like the Eastern Phoebe, Carolina Chickadee, Brown Thrasher, Northern Mockingbird, and Eastern Towhee. After the group compilation at Frank Bennett's house, I left Mermet Lake at 7 p.m. and drove 1.5 hours north to Carbondale, Illinois, where we would meet the following morning for the next count. By 10 p.m. I was sound asleep in my hotel room. Do I know how to celebrate New Year's Eve, or what? Like I said, I really need to get a life!

January 1 - New Year's Day. 4:15 a.m.. I joined Vicki Lang's field party for the Jackson County, Illinois CBC. There was very little wind, but precipitation was again predicted. While wandering through bottomland forest, wetlands, old fields, and agricultural land, we had a dry and successful day, recording a total of 60 species. The most notable birds included 178 Greater White-fronted Geese, 12 Red-shouldered Hawks, 306 Red-headed Woodpeckers, 19 Pileated Woodpeckers, 40 Carolina Wrens, 69 Golden-crowned Kinglets, 124 Swamp and 254 White-throated Sparrows, and 13,500 blackbird species.

Following the group compilation in Carbondale, I began the six-hour drive back to the Quad Cities at 8 p.m. The two-day trip to southern Illinois and the long drive home sapped my energy, and thoroughly convinced me that I was indeed "out of my mind" when I decided to attempt this extensive CBC marathon. However, I was only three CBCs away from successful completion of the marathon. I could almost taste it! And that's what kept me going. I had no count scheduled for January 2. Then I was to complete the odyssey by conducting three consecutive counts to end the 2002-2003 CBC count period.

January 3 - After catching up on sleep, I began the four-hour drive north at 3 a.m. to join Fred Lesher's field party for the Yellow River, Iowa-Wisconsin CBC. This circle is in the heart of the driftless or unglaciated area. As a consequence, our territory was habitat-rich with substantial upland forest including steep bluffs covered with dense cedar stands. We also had a fairly large amount of open agricultural fields, and somewhat limited access to the Mississippi River and its floodplain. The weather was absolutely perfect for a CBC – mild temperatures, light wind, and clear. However, avian diversity is typically low during the winter this far north As expected, even with optimum weather conditions, our field party only observed 43 species, the most notable being 1 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 2 Winter Wrens, 6 Golden-crowned Kinglets, 4 Yellow-rumped Warblers, a single Hermit Thrush, and 15 Swamp and 2 White-throated Sparrows. I arrived home at 11 p.m., thoroughly exhausted. The next count was six hours away in east-central Illinois.

January 4 - After a mere two hours of sleep, I began the four-hour drive to the Middle Fork River Valley, Illinois CBC at 3 a.m. For some reason (lack of sleep? lack of mental stability?) I found this to be one of the most difficult, and even most painful drives of the entire marathon. After three long weeks of nearly constant CBCs and very little sleep, my fatigue was overwhelming. Mike Ward and I birded a portion of the Middle Fork State Fish and Wildlife Area, which included forest, old fields, and cedar stands. As with all the other CBCs, a substantial amount of agricultural land was also present. Additionally, we covered Lake Vermilion, the only major body of water in the circle.

Thayer's Gull photo taken in December 2003 at Montrose Harbor, Chicago, by Kanae Hirabayashi.

My group had a good day, recording 50 species. Noteworthy finds included a single Pied-billed Grebe, 1 Snow Goose, 1 Winter Wren, 5 Carolina Wrens, and 11 White-throated Sparrows. During this CBC, the weather was seasonably cold and we had a moderately strong wind to contend with all day. But the weather became a real difficulty during the drive home. Near both Peoria and Galesburg, I encountered sleet, snow, and freezing rain. The interstate was so slippery, I could not drive more than 25 mph from Galesburg to the Quad Cities. The drive home lasted six hours!

January 5 - This day marked the end of the CBC count period and my 20th count of the year (Van Petten, Illinois CBC). This was my second "state-only" count of the year, and the seventh CBC I compiled. Steve Hager and Brad Cosentino joined me in my final episode of my 2002-2003 CBC marathon. At 3:15 a.m., we began the nearly two-hour drive to our territory of almost exclusively open agricultural fields. The exception is the woodlands and old fields of the Green River Wildlife Management Area. The weather was very damp and dreary, but we had little wind. Overall, with waterfowl being fairly scarce, we were only able to record 45 species.

But it was on this, the last CBC I would do this season, that we got what I think was perhaps the best bird of the entire CBC season. Shortly after dawn, we stopped along the Green River. As soon as we stepped out of the car, we flushed a shorebird from a small mudflat within the river. As it flew downstream, it gave several sharp distinctive two-note calls. A Solitary Sandpiper! The other interesting species identified during this count were Greater White-fronted Goose, Northern Goshawk, Thayer's Gull, Long-eared and Northern Saw-whet Owls, Hermit Thrush, and Northern Shrike.

As darkness fell and the count ended, the approaching night was deathly still with not a breath of air moving. As we scanned the darkening grassland at the Green River State Wildlife Area, trying to locate

Northern Shrike photo by Kanae Hirabayashi.

a Short-eared Owl, I reflected on the incredible and amazing adventure which I had just endured. Some of my fondest memories of this CBC odyssey, other than the birds themselves, will be the friendship and comradeship shared with all of the dedicated birders I met and worked with along the way. These folks certainly made this an enjoyable experience for me, and I thank them all.

As far as I could find at the beginning of this CBC season, 16 NAS counts was the most that had ever been conducted by one person in a single season. If this is true, then my 18 NAS counts and 20 total would represent a new all-time record During this marathon, the number of species identified by my field parties ranged from a low of 31 to a high of 77 and averaged 52.4 per count (53.1 per NAS count). The total number of birds recorded ranged from 909 to 19,653. Overall, my groups observed 115 total species and 101,066 individual birds throughout the 20 CBCs (113 species and 97,119 individuals on the 18 NAS counts) See Tables 1 and 2. The

Table 1:
2002/2003 CBC results from field parties in which Kelly J. McKay participated

Count	Date	# Species	# Individuals
Cedar Rapids	12-14-02	53	909
Davenport	12-15-02	60	11,591
Green Island	12-16-02	51	2,449
Lost Nation *	12-17-02	47	1,437
Clinton-Savanna	12-18-02	53	2,874
Horseshoe Lake	12-19-02	66	5,676
Union County	12-20-02	77	15,727
Lake Chautauqua	12-21-02	61	8,634
Muscatine	12-22-02	46	3,418
Princeton-Camanche	12-23-02	44	1,909
Chicago Lakefront	12-25-02	31	2,973
Andalusia	12-26-02	61	4,522
Western Mercer County	12-27-02	56	2,281
North Linn	12-28-02	45	1,631
Thorn Creek	12-29-02	33	3,126
Mermet Lake	12-31-02	66	5,873
Jackson County	01-01-03	60	19,653
Yellow River	01-03-03	43	1,839
Middle Fork	01-04-03	50	2,034
Van Petten *	01-05-03	45	2,510
TOTAL 20 CBCs		**115**	**101,066**
TOTAL 18 NAS CBCs		**113**	**97,119**

* = State Counts only. Data was not submitted to the National Audubon Society.

Table 2. Cumulative species identified and frequency of occurrence during the 2002-2003 CBC marathon undertaken by Kelly J. McKay

Species *	Total # Counts (%)	# NAS Counts (%)
Common Loon	1 (5)	1 (6)
Pied-billed Grebe	2 (10)	2 (11)
Double-crested Cormorant	2 (10)	2 (11)
Great Blue Heron	15 (75)	13 (72)
Greater White-fronted Goose	3 (15)	2 (11)
Snow Goose	3 (15)	3 (17)
Ross's Goose	1 (5)	1 (6)
Canada Goose	19 (95)	18 (100)
Trumpeter Swan	2 (10)	2 (11)
Tundra Swan	1 (5)	1 (6)
Wood Duck	3 (15)	3 (17)
Gadwall	8 (40)	8 (44)
American Wigeon	3 (15)	3 (17)
American Black Duck	11 (55)	11 (61)
Mallard	20 (100)	18 (100)
Northern Shoveler	4 (20)	4 (22)
Northern Pintail	6 (30)	6 (33)
Green-winged Teal	5 (25)	5 (28)
Canvasback	4 (20)	4 (22)
Redhead	3 (15)	3 (17)
Ring-necked Duck	3 (15)	3 (17)
Lesser Scaup	9 (45)	9 (50)
Bufflehead	3 (15)	3 (17)
Common Goldeneye	12 (60)	11 (61)
Hooded Merganser	3 (15)	3 (17)
Common Merganser	11 (55)	11 (61)
Red-breasted Merganser	3 (15)	3 (17)
Ruddy Duck	4 (20)	4 (22)
Bald Eagle	18 (90)	16 (89)
Northern Harrier	10 (50)	10 (56)
Sharp-shinned Hawk	6 (30)	6 (33)
Cooper's Hawk	8 (40)	8 (44)
Northern Goshawk	2 (10)	1 (6)
Red-shouldered Hawk	3 (15)	3 (17)
Red-tailed Hawk	19 (95)	17 (94)
Rough-legged Hawk	7 (35)	6 (33)
American Kestrel	20 (100)	18 (100)
Ring-necked Pheasant	8 (40)	6 (33)
Wild Turkey	9 (45)	8 (44)
Northern Bobwhite	2 (10)	2 (11)
American Coot	4 (20)	4 (22)
Killdeer	7 (35)	7 (39)
Solitary Sandpiper	1 (5)	-- (0)
Wilson's Snipe	3 (15)	3 (17)
Ring-billed Gull	14 (70)	13 (72)
Herring Gull	13 (65)	12 (67)
Thayer's Gull	5 (25)	4 (22)
Rock Pigeon	19 (95)	17 (94)
Mourning Dove	17 (85)	15 (83)
Monk Parakeet	1 (5)	1 (6)
Eastern Screech-Owl	12 (60)	11 (61)
Great Horned Owl	16 (80)	14 (78)
Barred Owl	14 (70)	13 (72)
Long-eared Owl	6 (30)	5 (28)
Northern Saw-whet Owl	1 (5)	-- (0)
Belted Kingfisher	16 (80)	14 (78)
Red-headed Woodpeeker	12 (60)	11 (61)
Red-bellied Woodpecker	19 (95)	17 (94)
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	7 (35)	7 (39)
Downy Woodpecker	20 (100)	18 (100)
Hairy Woodpecker	18 (90)	16 (89)
Northern Flicker	18 (90)	17 (94)
Pileated Woodpecker	12 (60)	12 (67)
Eastern Phoebe	1 (5)	1 (6)
Loggerhead Shrike	1 (5)	(6)
Northern Shrike	2 (10)	1 (6)
Blue Jay	19 (95)	17 (94)
American Crow	20 (100)	18 (100)
Horned Lark	14 (70)	12 (67)
Carolina Chickadee	5 (25)	5 (28)
Black-capped Chickadee	15 (75)	13 (72)
Tufted Titmouse	17 (85)	16 (89)
White-breasted Nuthatch	18 (90)	16 (89)
Brown Creeper	19 (95)	17 (94)
Carolina Wren	14 (70)	14 (78)
House Wren	1 (5)	1 (6)
Winter Wren	10 (50)	9 (50)
Golden-crowned Kinglet	15 (75)	13 (72)
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	4 (20)	4 (22)
Eastern Bluebird	12 (60)	11 (61)
Hermit Thrush	7 (35)	6 (33)
American Robin	15 (75)	14 (78)
Gray Catbird	1 (5)	1 (6)
Northern Mockingbird	4 (20)	4 (22)
Brown Thrasher	4 (20)	4 (22)
European Starling	20 (100)	18 (100)
American Pipit	1 (5)	1 (6)
Cedar Waxwing	7 (35)	6 (33)
Yellow-rumped Warbler	6 (30)	6 (33)
Eastern Towhee	4 (20)	4 (22)
American Tree Sparrow	19 (95)	17 (94)
Field Sparrow	7 (35)	6 (33)
Vesper Sparrow	1 (5)	1 (6)
Savannah Sparrow	1 (5)	1 (6)
Fox Sparrow	6 (30)	5 (28)
Song Sparrow	20 (100)	18 (100)
Lincoln's Sparrow	1 (5)	(6)
Swamp Sparrow	17 (85)	15 (83)
White-throated Sparrow	19 (95)	17 (94)
Harris's Sparrow	1 (5)	1 (6)
White-crowned Sparrow	7 (35)	6 (33)
Dark-eyed Junco	19 (95)	17 (94)
Lapland Longspur	7 (35)	5 (28)
Snow Bunting	2 (10)	2 (11)
Northern Cardinal	20 (100)	18 (100)
Red-winged Blackbird	16 (80)	14 (78)
Eastern Meadowlark	3 (15)	3 (17)
Rusty Blackbird	6 (30)	6 (33)
Common Grackle	10 (50)	9 (50)
Brown-headed Cowbird	11 (55)	11 (61)
Purple Finch	5 (25)	4 (22)
House Finch	19 (95)	17 (94)
American Goldfinch	19 (95)	17 (94)
House Sparrow	20 (100)	18 (100)
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	4 (20)	4 (22)

* = Species taxonomic order and nomenclature follows A.O.U. (1998) and I.O.S. (1999), except for Common Snipe which was changed to Wilson's Snipe in 2002.

only two species not encountered on a national count were the Solitary Sandpiper and Northern Saw-whet Owl. Nine species of birds were encountered on all 18 NAS counts (Table 2), while only 8 of these were observed on all 20 CBCs (Table 2). During the course of completing this CBC marathon, I drove a total of 6,322 miles and accumulated 331.25 hours of effort, including travel time and miles, as well as daily compilation time. I averaged 316 miles and 16.5 hours of effort per count.

I am certainly not encouraging or even suggesting that others attempt a CBC marathon. However, I hope those who read this article will be inspired to actively participate as much as possible in a program for which I am so very passionate. In the years to come, I believe that "citizen scientists" will play an ever-increasingly important role in the wildlife research and monitoring which is vital if we are to preserve the Earth's biodiversity. As for undertaking a CBC marathon, I agree, a person has to be crazy…next year, I go for 23!

Editor's Final Note: *Kelly tried for 23 CBCs during the 2003/2004 season. We'll let you know how he did in a future issue of Meadowlark or Wings Over The Prairie. Kelly wrote two separate articles on his CBC marathon, one for American Birds, the 103rd Christmas Bird Count, 2002-2003 (Pp. 36 – 43) and one for Meadowlark. We appreciate him taking the time to include more detailed information in this issue about the habitats and the birds he saw along the way, and acknowledge his fine article that appeared in the aforementioned American Birds.*

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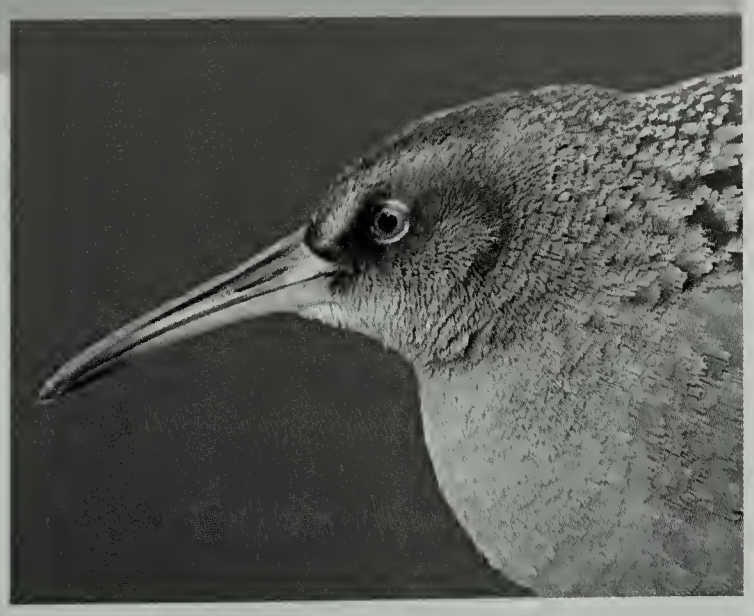
Virginia Rail

Virginia Rail. Montrose Harbor, Chicago, Cook County. 19 April 2003. Photos by Eric Walters.

See Field Notes page 149 for additional sightings.



Burrowing Owl in Champaign County

by James O. Smith

On the morning of 17 March 2003, our son, Thomas, was transferring a 12-row corn planter with a John Deere tractor from our farm northeast of Homer, to a John Deere repair and maintenance shop at Allerton, a distance of about 14 miles. Most of the travel route was along the Champaign-Vermilion County line road. I was to give him a half hour's head start, and then drive his pickup to the shop, then pick him up and return to the farm. While driving to Allerton, I traveled on a road one mile east of the county line to see if there were any interesting roadside birds. The only item of interest was a coyote by a mound of dirt at the entrance to what appeared to be a burrow on a hill.

After Tom got in the pickup, I started driving back the way I went to show him the coyote. After we were on our way, Tom asked what kind of small owl could be flushed from the entrance to a burrow along side the road. He told me that the owl was the size of a screech-owl, only more slender, and was about one mile north of Allerton. The description he provided fit a Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*). I immediately turned the truck onto a connecting dirt road to go west to the county line road. He could not remember exactly where the owl had been, so we drove south toward Allerton until he pointed out the mound of earth at the entrance to a burrow. The burrow appeared to have been made by a badger digging for ground squirrels. Sure enough, there sat a Burrowing Owl staring at us. It had a rounded head, a slender body, and big yellow eyes. I never saw it fly. The bird was using a narrow (less than 5 m wide) strip of grass between the road and a plowed corn stubble field, with agricultural fields for several miles in all directions, except for the small town of Allerton just to the southeast.

I turned the truck around, and drove quickly home to get a camera. I knew I'd need photos to convince the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee that I had actually observed this rare bird. When I got home, my wife, Eleanor, had lunch ready, but I asked her to forget lunch for the present. We needed to return to the owl to observe and obtain photos. I tried to call a few birders, most of whom either did not answer or were on the phone with someone else. I did reach Steve Bailey, who spread the word further, and he immediately drove to the owl's location with his camera.

Eleanor and I drove to the owl's location, and actually found the owl still present. I mounted my camera with a 500 mm lens on a car window mount while still some distance from the owl. The road is very much traveled, but traffic did not appear to bother the owl. It did, however, appear to be quite nervous when we eased the car closer and parked on the opposite side of the road. I obtained several photos, but did not go closer for better photos. I did not want to disturb the bird to obtain better photo images from different angles. We then drove a short distant away, and parked for further observation. Before we left the immediate area, Steve arrived and also took photos from a distance.

Burrowing Owl, Champaign County. 17 March 2003. Note at least one small pellet in front of the bird's burrow. At least three or four pellets were seen at the burrow's entrance. Photo by Steven D. Bailey.

Several other observers arrived that afternoon and evening. Unfortunately, one person got out of the car. That was more disturbance than the owl could take. It flew off a distance into the corn stubble. I returned the next morning to look for the owl, only to find no trace of it. Several other birders were also looking for it. All area roads were searched to no avail.

When I put out word about this bird, I instructed all observers to please stay in their cars and under no conditions, get out for a better look. One person violated this rule, and that was enough to frighten the owl away. To our knowledge, it never returned to the roadside burrow and it was only seen on the Champaign County side of county line road.

After the bird was gone, Steve Bailey and I observed three to four pellets at the entrance to the burrow, indicating the bird had been present at least a few days. Owls usually disgorge one pellet per day (S. Bailey pers. comm.)

The normal range of Burrowing Owls is from the great plains to the west coast, and Florida. There had been no severe storms that would have blown it so far away from it's usual breeding areas. However, this species has a tendency to overshoot its normal range, especially in spring, while migrating northeast from Mexico and the southwestern United States (pers. comm. S. Bailey). Ridgway does not mention Burrowing Owl in his "Natural History of the Birds of Illinois." Bohlen, in "Birds of Illinois", published in 1989 by Indiana University Press, describes this owl as a rare vagrant and lists 15 records in our state. Since Bohlen's book was published, there have been no records of this species in Illinois. Therefore, this particular owl will be number 16.

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The 2003 Illinois Statewide Spring Bird Count

by Vernon M. Kleen

The 2003 Illinois Statewide Spring Bird Count was held 10 May, the latest possible date for it to occur (since the count date is the Saturday that falls on or between 4 and 10 May). During the count's 32-year history, it has now occurred 10 May five times; in 2003, it happened to be, coincidentally, on the same day as the International Migratory Bird Day count. The number of species tallied (268) was one fewer than the highest number tallied on an Illinois spring bird count.

Count day for a few central Illinois birders was challenging. Consider these comments: "*...heavy rain with thunder and lightning between 6:30 and 8:30 a.m. plus two tornados....*" (Al Dierkes, Adams County), "*...a line of thunderstorms moved through the area from about 7:30 to 10:30 a.m....*" Vicki Hedrick, Macoupin County), "*...hit and miss between wind and tornado....*" (Karen Forcum, Shelby County), and "*...flooding rains, winds between 70 and 80 mph, and creeks out over the road making it impossible to get to many birding places....*" (Mary Ann Hoeffliger, Effingham County). Yet, in other parts of the state, the day was more favorable. Consider these comments: "*...our best day ever....*" (Mike Ward, Brown County), "*...we had a great day and tallied 175 species, most within one mile of the Mississippi...*" (Jeff Baughman, Carroll County), "*...the all-time highest Spring Bird Count total ever...*" (Darrell Shambaugh, De Kalb County), "*...more than the usual numbers of birds...*" (Charlene Anchor, Piatt County), "*...warbler heaven in our yard....*" (Karen Forcum, Shelby County), "*...never had so many Indigo Buntings and Scarlet Tanagers....*" (Arlene Brei, Boone County), and "*...large numbers of cuckoos calling overhead during the pre-dawn hours...*" (Vernon Kleen, Union County). Overall, this year's count day, on a statewide scale, was a great day—in fact, the second best for total species.

As referenced above, the weather created a real challenge in some parts of the state; the most severe storms moved through a band of counties in the northern part of AREA 2 (Figure 1) from Adams and Calhoun counties in the west to Effingham County in the east. Although the intrepid birders in those affected counties were inconvenienced, in some instances up to three hours (and 5 inches of rain) during the best morning hours, most found by day's end that their birding results were much better than anticipated. Across the state, count morning temperatures ranged from the upper 40s and lower 50s in the north to the lower 60s in the south; by mid-afternoon they had reached the mid-to-upper 70s in the north and upper 70s to lower 80s in the south. Predawn skies were clear, at least in the south; however, by dawn they were cloudy and overcast throughout the state and remained that way all morning. By early afternoon the cloudiness had changed to

Fifty-eight of the Illinois counties that conducted the Statewide Spring Bird Count reported Black-throated Green Warbler. Drawing by James T. Ziebol.

TABLE 1 – Annual Comparisons

Criteria	2003	2002	2001	Highest Total
Number of Species	268	265	257	269 (1996)
Number of Birds	519,342	545,759	520,970	593,680 (1996)
Number of Participating Counties	93	99	101	102 (2 yrs)
Number of Observers	1350	1473	1430	1611 (1997)
Number of Party Miles Walked	2027	2227	2459	2628 (1995)
Number of Party Miles Driven	21,782	23,802	23,942	23,942 (2001)
Total Number of Party Miles	23,809	26,029	26,401	26,401 (2001)
Number of Party Hours Walked	2647	3094	3120	3457 (1997)
Number of Party Hours Driven	1919	2135	1957	2140 (1998)
Total Number of Party Hours	4566	5229	5077	5565 (1995)
No. of Species in 90 or more Counties	33	47	52	55 (1996)
No. of Counties with 100 or more species	69	70	69	80 (1997)
No. of Counties with 20 or more observers	20	22	19	24 (1998)
Highest Species Total in Single County	192	177	184	205 (1983)
Average # of species/participating County	120	116	113	122 (1999)
Average # of species for all 102 counties	110	113	112	120 (1999)

TABLE 2

Counties with 20 or more Participants

Cook	110	La Salle	29
Du Page	101	McDonough	29
Schuyler	58	Jo Daviess	28
Kane	50	Knox	27
McHenry	50	Boone	25
Lake	47	Kankakee	23
Will	44	Crawford	22
Champaign	37	Logan	22
Winnebago	33	Adams	21
Kendall	30	Edgar	21

partly cloudy or mostly sunny skies. The only rain reported, except for the central Illinois storms, was light morning showers in the northern counties and a few scattered showers statewide in the evening. Morning breezes, except for the storm zone, were generally from the south at less than 10 mph; however, in the northeastern counties, the wind was coming in off the lake (from an easterly direction). In the northern counties the calm breezes continued throughout the day while in the central and southern counties they increased to 15-25 mph.

For participants in six counties (Clinton, Jo Daviess, Kendall, Knox, Madison and Mercer), this year's count day began at midnight; for participants in 11 more counties it had begun by 3 a.m. In total, 69 (74%) of the participating counties had observers in the field prior to 5:30 a.m. (the approximate "magic time" for dawn). Only 19 counties (20%) had participants that continued birding (owling) beyond dusk. One of the most disappointing aspects of this year's count was that reports were received from only 93 of the state's 102 counties; this is the lowest number of participating counties since 1993 and prior to that, 1984. On the positive side, 74% of the counties (69) reported 100 or more species this year compared with only 69% last year.

Highest county counts

Since count day was as late in May as it possibly could be, it was naturally expected that the northern counties would achieve the highest species totals; they didn't disappoint us. Cook County took honors for first place this year with 192 species reported by its 110 observers in 51 parties. Lake County, 181 species and Carroll County, 179 species came in second and third, respectively. The other counties with counts of 150 species or more were: Clinton (167), Union (167), La Salle (166), Will (166), Du Page (165), McHenry (164), Knox (163), Winnebago (163), Champaign (162), Mason (162), Sangamon (158), Brown (157), Massac (157), Kane (156), and Rock Island (151). Seven additional counties reported 140 or more species. Of the 18 counties with 150 or more species, 10 (56%) were in the northern quarter of the state, 6 (33%) were in the central half of the state; and 2 (11%) were in the southern quarter of the state. Only 11 counties reached the 150 species level in 2002. The state record for the highest number of species in a single county (set in 1983) is still 205.

Tables

Table 1 provides the annual comparisons; it compares the 2003 results with those of the two previous years and the "record" year. The 2003 totals in Table 1, when compared with 2002, were attained with 6 fewer counties, 120 fewer observers, 2200 fewer party miles and 660 fewer party hours of observation—numbers which ranged from 9-15% less than those of 2002. Although 2003 turned out to be a very good year, it was not a record-setting year for any of the Table 1 listings. The 268 accepted species ties the 1997 total for second best and missed the 1996 record (269) by only one species. It is possible that 2003, in reality, was the reeord-setting year for total species because at least one (perhaps more) "probable" species were disqualified from the count for lack of sufficient documentation. The Great-tailed Grackle, another new count species, was well-documented (including photographs). In a few instances reports of other species were also disqualified in some counties for lack of documentations.

This year's million-plus birds were only 75,000 fewer than the record total, 26,000 fewer than last year's total, and almost identical with the 2001 total. Only three of the Table 1 categories (Number of

Species, Highest Species Total in a Single County and the Average Number of Species per participating County) were higher than those of 2002; the first and third were very close to the records.

Table 2 lists, in descending order, the 20 counties with 20 or more observers. As usual, Cook and Du Page both continue to field 100 or more observers. Special accolades go out to the coordinators and compilers of these counties since it certainly must be challenging to not only assign designated birding areas to the counters, but also to get their results back in a timely manner. Obviously, those counties with 0-4 observers would not appear in this table; however, had just one observer been counting in any of the nine counties from which no reports were received, the count totals would have been enhanced and, perhaps, more records would have been established. As in the past, I encourage some of you to participate in one of the more distant counties which could, obviously, benefit from your assistance. (Special thanks to those of you who already help in one of these counties.)

Table 3 provides the usual comparisons of birding efforts in each quarter (south to north) of the state (identified as AREAS 1 through 4 in Figure 1). In 2003, the average number of party hours was 49.1, about 3.9 hours fewer per county than last year and 5.6 fewer than the record set in 1977. In addition, the average number of party hours in each of the four AREAS was fewer than those recorded in 2002.

TABLE 3 – Area Coverage

AREA	Possible # of Counties	# Counties Participating	# Party Hours	Average # Party Hours Per County
1	23	20 (87.0%)	636	31.8
2	28	26 (92.9%)	753	29.0
3	27	24 (88.9%)	1034	43.1
4	24	23 (95.8%)	2143	93.2
TOTAL	102	93 (91.1%)	4566	49.1

TABLE 4 – Species Reported from 84 (90%) or more Counties

Great Blue Heron	92	Eastern Kingbird	91	Common Yellowthroat	92
Turkey Vulture	91	Warbling Vireo	85	Eastern Towhee	88
Canada Goose	93	Red-eyed Vireo	84	Chipping Sparrow	92
Mallard	84	Blue Jay	93	Field Sparrow	89
Red-tailed Hawk	91	American Crow	92	Song Sparrow	91
Killdeer	92	Tree Swallow	85	White-crowned Sparrow	84
Rock Dove	88	Barn Swallow	93	Northern Cardinal	93
Mourning Dove	93	Tufted Titmouse	91	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	88
Chimney Swift	90	White-brsted Nuthatch	90	Indigo Bunting	93
Ruby-thr Hummingbird	86	House Wren	90	Red-winged Blackbird	93
Red-head Woodpecker	91	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	84	Eastern Meadowlark	92
Red-bell Woodpecker	93	Eastern Bluebird	90	Common Grackle	93
Downy Woodpecker	89	Wood Thrush	84	Brown-headed Cowbird	92
Northern Flicker	92	American Robin	93	Baltimore Oriole	92
Eastern Wood-Pewee	88	Gray Catbird	89	House Finch	86
Eastern Phoebe	89	Brown Thrasher	93	American Goldfinch	93
Great Crested Flycatcher	86	European Starling	93	House Sparrow	93

Table 4 lists the 51 species reported from 84 (90%) or more counties. Fourteen (27%) of these were reported in all 93 counties; another 9 (including Killdeer, flicker, crow, and cowbird) were reported from all but one county. The Rock Dove, Chimney Swift, Red-headed Woodpecker, and House Finch were not reported from 5, 3, 2 and 7 counties, respectively.

Table 5 shows, in descending order, the 20 most commonly reported species. The top ten are pretty much the same year after year with the Red-winged Blackbird and Common Grackle nearly always in first and second position. The next eight positions often change from year to year; this year the starling moved ahead of both the robin and House Sparrow and the Ring-billed Gull (thanks to the 14,000+ in Cook County) also moved ahead of the House Sparrow. The Canada Goose continues to be almost as common as the House Sparrow. This year was a **record-setting year** for the **Mourning Dove** (always in the top 20, but increased by a mere 19 birds), **Indigo Bunting** (nearly half the time in the top 20, increased by 800 birds) and **Common Yellowthroat** (a first time appearance, increased by 1100+ birds). With the addition of the Common Yellowthroat, a total of 42 species have now been recorded in the Top 20 list; nine of these have been on the list only one time. The three species on last year's list that were not on it this year are American Coot, American Golden-Plover, and Chipping Sparrow.

It's interesting to compare the 2003 totals with those of 2002 and the "record" year. By looking strictly at the printed numbers and not taking into account important annual variables, especially total number of observers and party hours, the populations of all **Top 10** species except for the Ring-billed Gull and Mourning Dove apparently declined since 2002—some by small percentages, but others by substantial percentages such as the Robin (-23%), House Sparrow (-48%), American

Goldfinch (-43%) and Northern Cardinal (-26%); this methodology would also indicate substantial declines for other **Top 20** species: Brown-headed Cowbird (-23%), Blue Jay (-43%), and American Crow (-47%) and for selected **non-Top 20** species such as: Red-headed Woodpecker (-24%), Red-bellied Woodpecker (-24%), Downy Woodpecker (-28%), Pileated Woodpecker (-29%), Carolina Chickadee (-21%), Black-capped Chickadee (-54%), Tufted Titmouse (-42%), White-breasted Nuthatch (-45%), Chipping Sparrow (-18%), and House Finch (-42%). However, since the Table 5 numbers do not reflect annual differences such as 1) an increase or decrease in the number of participating counties, participating observers, or party hours; 2) variable weather conditions from year to year and region to region within the state; 3) whether or not the same counters are responsible for counting in the same locations at the same time each year; and 4) the accuracy of counting (or estimating) from year to year, it's difficult to prove from these numbers that there have been "statistically significant" population changes locally, regionally or statewide from one year to the next. However, increasing or decreasing trends over several years may be possible. So, the question that still needs an answer is, might some of these reduced numbers be a result of West Nile Virus? We can certainly see that some species were definitely less common in 2003 than they were in 2002 or earlier; but that does not necessarily mean West Nile Virus was the cause.

Table 6 is a synopsis of the entire 2003 count. It shows the number of counties reporting each species, the total number of birds of each species reported, the highest number of each species reported from a single county and the new records set this year. The 18 species reported from a single county have been **bold faced** and the **GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE** (Carroll County) is further emphasized by capital letters since it was a new count species and ranks high as one of the most interesting records of 2003. Some of the other notable single-county records, which made it possible for the statewide count to reach 268 species included Tricolored Heron (3rd year) (Alexander County), Northern Goshawk (5th year) (Henry County), Gray Partridge (De Kalb County), Yellow Rail (Menard County), Black Rail (7th year) (Vermilion County), Red-necked Phalarope (5th year) (Sangamon County), Long-eared Owl (family of 4) (9th year) (Rock Island County), Bewick's Wren (Wabash County), and Pine Siskin (Wabash County). Some of the better records of the 18 species reported from just two counties include Ross's Goose, Black-necked Stilt, American Avocet, Marbled Godwit, Ruddy Turnstone, Laughing Gull, Western Kingbird, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, and Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow.

New records

As mentioned earlier, Table 6 also identifies all count records. The 74 new records have been identified by an asterisk (*) and the 17 records that tied the previous high have been identified by the pound (#) sign. *Ten new records increased the number of counties reporting the species;* some of the largest or most interesting county increases were for the: American White Pelican (up 6 counties), Mississippi Kite (up 5 counties), Black-necked Stilt (up 1 county); Monk Parakeet (up 1 county – Clinton), and Henslow's Sparrow (up 5 counties). Perhaps there would have been several more records had there been participants in one or more of the nine absent counties. *Thirty-seven new records increased the total number of birds reported for those species in a single count year;* some of the largest and most interesting gains (followed by the

TABLE 5 – Twenty Most Common Species

Species	2003	2002	2001	Highest	# Years In Top 20
Red-winged Blackbird	61,845	64,274	64,459	69,971 (1996)	32
Common Grackle	32,584	36,591	34,124	59,264 (1974)	32
European Starling	28,077	32,105	30,111	37,736 (1992)	32
American Robin	26,000	33,808	32,795	35,720 (1995)	32
Ring-billed Gull	20,806	18,728	19,968	29,243 (1994)	19
House Sparrow	16,554	32,120	19,459	32,120 (2002)	32
Canada Goose	15,585	16,448	16,267	19,031 (2000)	18
Mourning Dove	12,388	10,551	10,582	**12,388 (2003)**	32
American Goldfinch	10,383	18,240	14,810	18,240 (2002)	31
Northern Cardinal	10,229	13,895	11,122	13,895 (2002)	32
Barn Swallow	9,606	6,875	10,295	27,532 (1999)	31
Tree Swallow	9,426	7,601	9,444	24,573 (1989)	18
Brown-headed Cowbird	8,887	11,564	9,544	12,542 (1995)	32
Indigo Bunting	8,782	*5,124	*7,694	8,782 (2003)	14
Yellow-rumped Warbler	6,807	8,006	8,733	17,978 (1997)	20
Double-crested Cormorant	6,776	9,748	*4,338	9,748 (2002)	4
Blue Jay	6,693	11,655	8,150	13,446 (1984)	32
Common Yellowthroat	5,819	*3,486	*4,686	**5,819 (2003)**	1
American Crow	5,738	10,794	11,915	13,226 (1991)	32
White-throated Sparrow	5,730	*5518	*3,694	12,767 (1996)	13

New Records in **Bold Face.** * = Not in "Top 20" this year.

percent increase) were for the: American White Pelican (up 85 birds – 21%), Green Heron (up 39 birds – 6%), Black Vulture (up 29 birds – 53%), Mississippi Kite (up 21 birds – 50%), Wild Turkey (up 108 birds – 11%), Sandhill Crane (up 31 birds – 23%), Black-necked Stilt (up 3 birds – 150%), Laughing Gull (up 2 birds – 67%), Yellow-billed Cuckoo (up 353 birds – 64%), Ruby-throated Hummingbird (up 199 birds – 39%), Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (up 1 bird – 50%), Bell's Vireo (up 9 birds – 14%), Yellow-throated Vireo (up 144 birds – 33%), Gray Catbird (up 158 birds – 3%), Golden-winged Warbler (up 184 birds – 78%), Northern Parula (up by 133 birds – 16%), Chestnut-sided Warbler (up 521 birds – 65%), Magnolia Warbler (up 88 birds – 7%), American Redstart (up 114 birds – 6%), Common Yellowthroat (up 1133 birds – 24%), Summer Tanager (up 74 birds – 21%), Scarlet Tanager (up 219 birds – 22%), Henslow's Sparrow (up 57 birds – 40%), Lincoln's Sparrow (up 168 birds – 48%), Rose-breasted Grosbeak (up 672 birds – 20%), Blue Grosbeak (up 71 birds – 73%), Indigo Bunting (up 809 birds – 10%), and Western Meadowlark (up 79 birds – 22%). *Twenty-seven new records increased the total number of birds reported for those species for a single county*; some of the largest or most interesting increases were for the: Yellow-billed Cuckoo (up 78 birds, Union County), Long-eared Owl (up 2 birds, Rock Island County), Ruby-throated Hummingbird (up 132 birds, Union County), Blue-headed Vireo (up 19 birds, Cook County), Tennessee Warbler (up 53 birds, Knox County), Chestnut-sided Warbler (up 29 birds, Cook County), Blackburnian Warbler (up 22 birds, Cook County), Scarlet Tanager (up 31 birds, Cook County), Lincoln's Sparrow (up 85 birds, Cook County), Rose-breasted Grosbeak (up 211 birds, Winnebago County), Blue Grosbeak (up 24 birds, Union County), Indigo Bunting (up 878 birds, Union County), and Western Meadowlark (up 199 birds, Jo Daviess County).

After reappearing on the Spring Bird Count last year, the Ringed Turtle-Dove was absent again this year. The Eurasian Collared-Dove, after making a significant gain in 2002, lost ground in 2003 (dropped

TABLE 6: Species Accounts for the 2003 Spring Bird Count

Key to Table:
* New Spring Bird Count High Total
\# Ties Previous Spring Bird Count High Total
New species to Count are in BOLD FACE CAPS
Species Reported from a Single County are in Bold Face

Species	Total No. of Co.s	Birds	High County	(Total)
Common Loon	15	22	Two counties	(3)
Pied-billed Grebe	47	195	Putnam	(16)
American White Pelican	19*	486*	Pike	(76)
Double-crest Cormorant	51	6776	Cook	(2152)
American Bittern	18	30	Du Page	(4)
Least Bittern	8#	11	Franklin	(2)
Great Blue Heron	92	4099	Lake	(385)
Great Egret	53	1477	Will	(317)
Snowy Egret	8	45	St. Clair	(18)
Little Blue Heron	25	175	Johnson	(35)
Tricolored Heron	**1#**	1#	Alexander	#(1)
Cattle Egret	28	518	St. Clair	(205)
Green Heron	83	739*	Cook	(87)
Black-crown Night-Heron	17	937	Cook	(707)
Yllw-crown Night-Heron	9	29	Union	(7)
Black Vulture	9*	84*	Johnson	(21)
Turkey Vulture	91	3692	Pike	(156)
Snow Goose	12*	37	Bond	(20)
Ross's Goose	2#	2#	Two counties	#(1)
Canada Goose	93	15585	Cook	(1442)
Mute Swan	15	134	Lake	*(60)
Wood Duck	83	2432	Lake	(147)
Gadwall	16	498	Mason	(182)
American Wigeon	8	20	Clinton	(6)
American Black Duck	2	4	Stephenson	(3)
Mallard	84	5702	Cook	(808)
Blue-winged Teal	55	1169	Mason	(135)
Northern Shoveler	21	151	Putnam	(29)
Northern Pintail	7	30	Stephenson	(20)
Green-winged Teal	10	51	Putnam	(17)
Canvasback	**1**	1	Madison	(1)
Redhead	3	8	Stephenson	(6)
Ring-necked Duck	18	30	Carroll	(3)
Greater Scaup	2	5	Madison	(3)
Lesser Scaup	15	61	Lake	(15)
Surf Scoter	**1**	1	Lake	(1)
Bufflehead	5	17	Lake	(10)
Common Goldeneye	**1**	1	Rock Island	(1)
Hooded Merganser	25#	85	Cook	(11)
Common Merganser	3	4	Rock Island	(2)
Red-breasted Merganser	8	175	Lake	(132)
Ruddy Duck	17	298	Putnam	(164)
Osprey	21	38	Cook	(5)
Mississippi Kite	12*	63*	Union	(19)
Bald Eagle	23	95	Union	(21)
Northern Harrier	30	47	Vermilion	(5)
Sharp-shinned Hawk	39	65	Will	(6)
Cooper's Hawk	50	198	Cook	(27)
Northern Goshawk	**1**	1	Henry	(1)
Red-shouldered Hawk	22	73	Jackson	# (14)
Broad-winged Hawk	29	84	Cook	(14)
Red-tailed Hawk	91	1294	Du Page	(79)
American Kestrel	79	419	Cook	(26)
Merlin	3	4	Lake	*(2)
Peregrine Falcon	8	11	Cook	(4)

TABLE 6: Species Accounts for the 2003 Spring Bird Count (cont.)

Species	Total No. of Co.s	Total No. of Birds	High County	(Total)
Gray Partridge	**1**	2	De Kalb	(2)
Ring-necked Pheasant	55	799	Champaign	(60)
Greater Prairie-Chicken	2	31	Marion	(17)
Wild Turkey	80	1108*	Boone	(80)
Northern Bobwhite	76	984	Richland	(97)
Yellow Rail	**1**	1	Menard	(1)
Black Rail	**1**	1	Vermilion	(1)
King Rail	5	5	Five counties	(1)
Virginia Rail	15	40	McHenry	(8)
Sora	37	240	Lake	(45)
Common Moorhen	7	13	Cook	(5)
American Coot	42	1387	Putnam	(525)
Sandhill Crane	11	167*	McHenry	(57)
Black-bellied Plover	4	8	Two counties	(3)
American Golden-Plover	13	3811	McLean	(2970)
Semipalmated Plover	10	38	Will	(5)
Killdeer	92	3118	Richland	(186)
Black-necked Stillt	2*	5*	Massac	*(3)
American Avocet	2	15	Jasper	(9)
Greater Yellowlegs	35	210	Knox	(25)
Lesser Yellowlegs	58	1676	Knox	(257)
Solitary Sandpiper	57	502	Winnebago	(58)
Willet	7	83	Lake	(54)
Spotted Sandpiper	67	739	Cook	(63)
Upland Sandiper	7	24	McDonough	(6)
Hudsonian Godwit	**1**	1	Brown	(1)
Marbled Godwit	2	2	Two counties	(1)
Ruddy Turnstone	2	5	Lake	(4)
Sanderling	2	20	Cook	(14)
Semipalmated Sandpiper	15	98	Massac	(23)
Western Sandpiper	**1**	2	Kendall	(2)
Least Sandpiper	42	371	Massac	(28)
White-rumped Sandpiper	7	13	Kane	(5)
Pectoral Sandpiper	30	573	Effingham	(140)
Dunlin	16	129	La Salle	(48)
Stilt Sandpiper	**1**	3	Carroll	(3)
Short-billed Dowitcher	11	37	Carroll	(14)
Wilson's Snipe	21	70	Du Page	(12)
American Woodcock	34	104	Lake	(17)
Wilson's Phalarope	7	17	Jersey	(7)
Red-necked Phalarope	**1#**	1	Sangamon	(1)
Laughing Gull	2	5*	Clinton	*(4)
Franklin's Gull	4#	8	Madison	(4)
Bonaparte's Gull	6	1028	Lake	(905)
Ring-billed Gull	39	20806	Cook	(14752)
Herring Gull	13	828	Lake	(531)
Lesser Black-backed Gull	**1**	1	Cook	(1)
Caspian Tern	21	799	Cook	(445)
Common Tern	13	1160	Cook	(692)
Forster's Tern	24	473	Lake	(205)
Black Tern	17	190	Clinton	(132
Rock Dove	88	4249	Cook	(889)
Eurasian Collared-Dove	14	36	Clinton	(8)
Mourning Dove	93	12388	Winnebago	(521)
Monk Parakeet	3*	67*	Cook	*(65)

Species	Total No. of Co.s	Total No. of Birds	High County	(Total)
Black-billed Cuckoo	33	77	Williamson	(8)
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	69	903*	Union	*(169)
Barn Owl	2	5	Union	(4)
Eastern Screech-Owl	32	82	La Salle	(6)
Great Horned Owl	54	171	Three counties	(8)
Barred Owl	68	375	Knox	(46)
Long-eared Owl	**1**	4#	Rock Island	*(4)
Common Nighthawk	72	640	Du Page	(75)
Chuck-will's-widow	10	19	Massac	(5)
Whip-poor-will	47	280	Henderson	(29)
Chimney Swift	90	5185	Cook	(357)
Ruby-thrtd Hummingbird	86	1421*	Union	*(247)
Belted Kingfisher	72	345	Winnebago	(24)
Red-headed Woodpecker	91	1709	McDonough	(119)
Red-bellied Woodpecker	93	2683	Du Page	(190)
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	22	59	Two counties	(12)
Downy Woodpecker	89	2054	Cook	(175)
Hairy Woodpecker	69	404	Du Page	(31)
Northern Flicker	92	1689	Cook	(147)
Pileated Woodpecker	57	251	Union	(53)
Olive-sided Flycatcher	14	20	Wabash	(4)
Eastern Wood-Pewee	88	1237*	Union	(128)
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	2	2	Two counties	(1)
Acadian Flycatcher	45	368	Union	(145)
Alder Flycatcher	3#	3	Three counties	(1)
Willow Flycatcher	27	65	Randolph	(9)
Least Flycatcher	62	511	Cook	(88)
Eastern Phoebe	89	1198	Union	(91)
Great Crested Flycatcher	86	1581	Union	(127)
Western Kingbird	2#	5	Madions	(4)
Eastern Kingbird	91	3593*	Pike	(150)
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	2#	3*	Union	*(2)
Loggerhead Shrike	26	59	Union	(7)
White-eyed Vireo	56	689	Unon	(143)
Bell's Vireo	24	74*	Randolph	*(19)
Yellow-throated Vireo	71	587*	Union	(58)
Blue-headed Vireo	37	278	Cook	*(72)
Warbling Vireo	85	1877	Winnebago	(107)
Philadelphia Vireo	32	69	Du Page	(10)
Red-eyed Vireo	84	1473*	Union	(159)
Blue Jay	9	6693	Cook	(612)
American Crow	92	5738	Winnebago	(331)
Fish Crow	14	110	Union	(33)
Horned Lark	83	1706	Shelby	(155)
Purple Martin	83	3394	Randolph	(311)
Tree Swallow	85	9426	Mason	(1593)
No. Rough-wing Swallow	80	3933	Winnebago	(420)
Bank Swallow	59	3351	Randolph	(290)
Cliff Swallow	58	4216	Randolph	(565)
Barn Swallow	93	9606	Cook	(500)
Carolina Chickadee	35	740	Union	(137)
Black-capped Chickadee	58	2491	Du Page	(277)
Tufted Titmouse	91	1938	Union	(180)
Red-breasted Nuthatch	7	9	Du Page	(3)
White-breasted Nuthatch	90	1307	Winnebago	(98)

from 19 counties to 14 counties). The Gray Partridge is still "hanging in there" with the report of two birds from De Kalb County. The three Scissor-tailed Flycatchers (a pair and a single) were just across the Big Muddy River from each other in Union and Jackson counties. The Painted Buntings returned to East St. Louis again this year, but not in time for the Count. In addition to the Northern Goshawk observed on count day in Henry County, another had been seen a day earlier in Du Page County. With the addition of the Great-tailed Grackle to the Statewide compilation, the composite list has increased to 323 species.

Species missed

Although 268 is one short of the best we've ever done, there were several species that may have been present that were not reported or were insufficiently documented. Two of the most obvious are the Le Conte's Sparrow (the first year that we've not had at least one well-documented record) and the nesting Swainson's Hawks. A few other "could-have" or "should-have" beens include the Horned Grebe, Greater White-fronted Goose, Baird's Sandpiper, Short-eared Owl and Painted Bunting. Of course, another gull, shorebird, or waterfowl species may have been possible as well.

Other comments

Warblers and sparrows were very well-represented in many areas and specifically mentioned in McLean, Cook, McHenry and Winnebago counties. Several warbler records that had stood the test of time for ten or more years were smashed by this year's count. Shorebirds were plentiful at the Hennepin-Hopper Lake Restoration Area (Putnam County). Although a few Alder and Yellow-bellied Flycatchers and Connecticut Warblers had arrived by count day, some records were disqualified for lack of appropriate documentation. Ruby-crowned Kinglets were still rather

TABLE 6: Species Accounts for the 2003 Spring Bird Count (cont.)

Species	Total No. of Co.s	Total No. of Birds	High County	(Total)
Brown Creeper	21	36	Two counties	(4)
Carolina Wren	76	738	Union	(88)
Bewick's Wren	**1**	2	Wabash	#(2)
House Wren	90	3629	Winnebago	(261)
Winter Wren	2	2	Two counties	(1)
Sedge Wren	28	115	Will	(17)
Marsh Wren	32	165	Lake	(26)
Golden-crowned Kinglet	3	5	Two counties	(2)
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	39	501	Cook	(164)
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	84	3120*	Union	(314)
Eastern Bluebird	90	2814	Pike	(130)
Veery	55	461	Cook	(105)
Gray-cheeked Thrush	50	337	Union	(99)
Swainson's Thrush	76	1260	Union	(256)
Hermit Thrush	33	117	Cook	(30)
Wood Thrush	84	1264	Union	(113)
American Robin	93	26000	Du Page	(1714)
Gray Catbird	89	5192*	Cook	*(709)
Northern Mockingbird	71	728	Richland	(64)
Brown Thrasher	93	2218	Boone	(103)
European Starling	93	28077	Cook	(1677)
American Pipit	15	70	Cook	(19)
Cedar Waxwing	67	2229	Du Page	(250)
Blue-winged Warbler	45	319	Cook	(56)
Golden-winged Warbler	43	419*	Cook	(83)
Tennessee Warbler	73	3188	Knox	*(471)
Orange-crowned Warbler	23	111	Cook	(27)
Nashville Warbler	59	1609	Cook	(290)
Northern Parula	70*	916*	Union	*(145)
Yellow Warbler	79	3055*	Cook	*(399)
Chestnut-sided Warbler	67	1327*	Cook	*(196)
Magnolia Warbler	63	1277*	Cook	(233)
Cape May Warbler	41	256	Cook	(49)
Black-thr Blue Warbler	8	23	Cook	(10)
Yellow-rumped Warbler	78	6807	Cook	(943)

Species	Total No. of Co.s	Total No. of Birds	High County	(Total)
Black-thr Green Warbler	58	1208	Lake	(227)
Blackburnian Warbler	51	532	Cook	*(100)
Yellow-throated Warbler	34	208*	Union	(45)
Pine Warbler	32	75	Three counties	(7)
Prairie Warbler	15	124	Pope	(32)
Palm Warbler	70	5140	Cook	(1187)
Bay-breasted Warbler	37	240	Cook	(67)
Blackpoll Warbler	56	417	Union	(52)
Cerulean Warbler	38	98	Carroll	(15)
Black-and-white Warbler	69	1135	Cook	(214)
American Redstart	78	1908*	Cook	(186)
Prothonotary Warbler	62	620	Union	(158)
Worm-eating Warbler	26	167	Union	(85)
Ovenbird	72	1596	Cook	(304)
Northern Waterthrush	62	1256	Cook	(299)
Louisiana Waterthrush	45	168	Union	(51)
Kentucky Warbler	45	513	Union	(177)
Connecticut Warbler	9#	13	Cook	(3)
Mourning Warbler	17	32	Cook	(7)
Common Yellowthroat	92	5819*	Cook	*(602)
Hooded Warbler	26*	67	Union	(16)
Wilson's Warbler	37	145	Cook	(42)
Canada Warbler	21	75	Cook	(15)
Yellow-breasted Chat	60	409	Union	(91)
Summer Tanager	52	425*	Union	(121)
Scarlet Tanager	83	1214*	Cook	*(177)
Eastern Towhee	88	1645	Mason	(103)
American Tree Sparrow	5	18	Cook	(12)
Chipping Sparrow	92	4879	Winnebago	(284)
Clay-colored Sparrow	8	32	Cook	(17)
Field Sparrow	89	2839	Du Page	(186)
Vesper Sparrow	45	205	Jo Daviess	(42)
Lark Sparrow	36	258	Jo Daviess	(53)
Savannah Sparrow	60	923	Cook	(106)
Grasshopper Sparrow	70	1171	Jo Daviess	(504)

common in the northern counties, but were virtually absent in the south. Indigo Buntings, Eastern Kingbirds, Bobolinks and Dickcissels were very common along the levee roads in southern Illinois.

County statistics

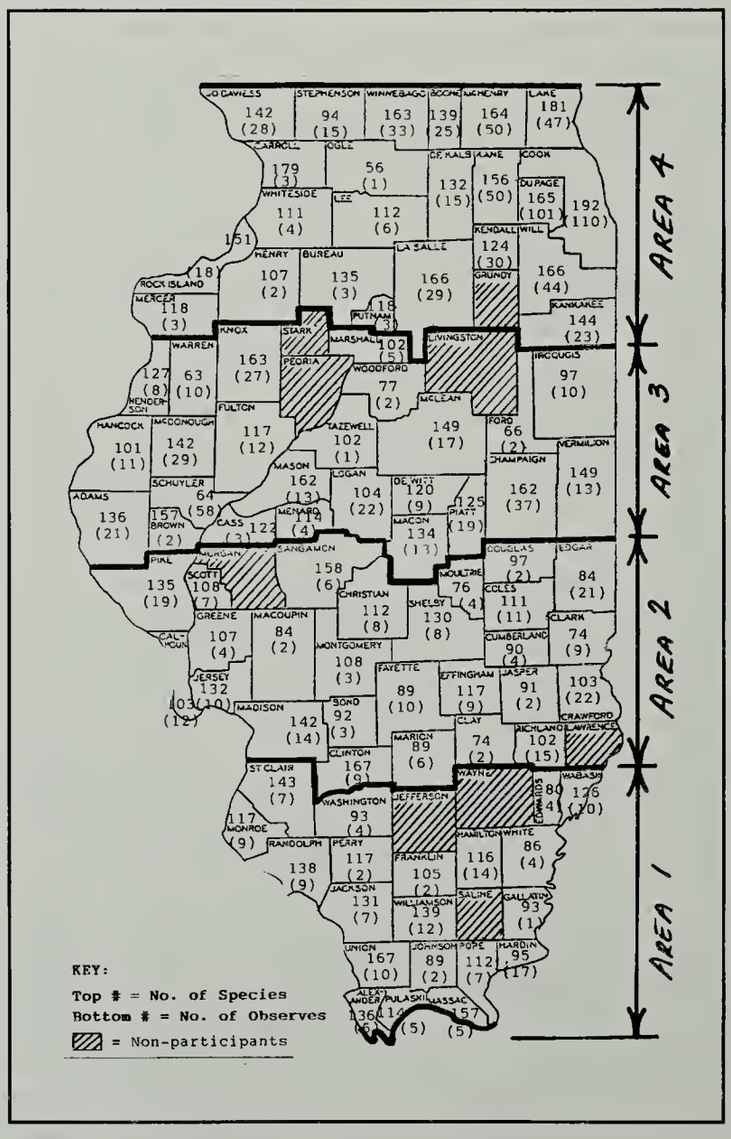
Table 7 provides the county statistics. Without the details of this table the results of the count could not be analyzed and compared in a meaningful way. The columns in the table include the county name; AREA (1, 2, 3 or 4) of the state in which the county occurs; the number of species identified; the number of countable birds reported; the number of participating birders in the county; the number of parties counting birds in the county; the earliest and latest birding times (in the 24-hour system with owling hours before and/or after daylight hours marked by an asterisk "*"); the number of party miles walked (W) and driven (D); the number of party hours walked (W) and driven (D); and the 2003 county coordinator/compiler.

For a handful of counties, the number of species listed in Table 7 may be one or two fewer than had been submitted by the county compiler because the documentations required for certain species were either not provided, or, did not describe the bird(s) adequately to eliminate them from other potential species.

TABLE 6: Species Accounts for the 2003 Spring Bird Count (cont.)

Species	Total No. of Co.s	Birds	High County	(Total)
Henslow's Sparrow	29*	198*	Union	(41)
Nelson's Sharp-tail Sparrow	2	2	Two counties	(1)
Fox Sparrow	2	2	Two counties	(1)
Song Sparrow	91	5120	Du Page	(579)
Lincoln's Sparrow	37	521*	Cook	*(258)
Swamp Sparrow	39	1361	Cook	(299)
White-throated Sparrow	75	5730	Cook	(1542)
Harris's Sparrow	4	5	Cook	(2)
White-crowned Sparrow	84	4567	Cook	(1663)
Dark-eyed Junco	4	6	Two counties	(2)
Lapland Longspur	**1**	38	McHenry	(38)
Northern Cardinal	93	10229	Du Page	(577)
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	8	4113*	Winnebago	*(672)
Blue Grosbeak	32	168*	Union	*(47)
Indigo Bunting	93	8782*	Union	*(869)
Dickcissel	75	3093	Union	*(347)
Bobolink	70	3053	Jersey	(300)
Red-winged Blackbird	93	61845	McHenry	(3471)
Eastern Meadowlark	92	5341	Union	(327)
Western Meadowlark	24	434*	Jo Daviess	*(300)
Yellow-headed Blackbird	8	56	Cook	(10)
Brewer's Blackbird	2	18	Lake	(16)
Common Grackle	93	32584	La Salle	(1863)
GRT-TAILED GRACKLE	**1***	**1***	**Carroll**	***(1)**
Brown-headed Cowbird	92	8887	Winnebago	(717)
Orchard Oriole	75	695*	Union	(101)
Baltimore Oriole	92	5276	Cook	*(405)
Purple Finch	24	166	Stephenson	(19)
House Finch	86	2322	Winnebago	(186)
Pine Siskin	**1**	2	Wabash	(2)
American Goldfinch	93	10383	Du Page	(1109)
House Sparrow	93	16554	Cook	(1603)
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	24	424	Mason	(120)
EXOTICS				
NONE				
[Brewster's Warbler	1	1	Cook	(1)]
New Records (*)	10	37		27
Tied Records (#)	10	3		4

Figure 1 provides a convenient pictorial view of how well we all did. The upper number is the number of species reported and the lower number (in parenthesis), the number of observers in the county. The figure readily shows how well each county did in comparison to its surrounding counties, and, identifies those counties where more assistance would be helpful, especially those with four or fewer participants.



Acknowledgments

As usual, the Spring Bird Count would not have been possible without the dedicated interest and support of Illinois' birders (including some from as far away as Arizona and New Jersey). I want to thank all 1,350 of you for your much-appreciated assistance and your willingness to obtain an accurate species count of the birds present in your assigned areas. I want to especially thank those of you who weathered out the rain, hail, and tornadoes to complete the count. That's real dedication. And, as always, a very special tribute and acknowledgment to all the county coordinators/compilers (identified in Table 7), many of whom have served in this capacity all 32 years; many thanks for all the hours spent lining up observers, assigning territories, reviewing data and documentations, compiling the results, and submitting them in a timely manner; the Spring Bird Count and this report would not have been possible without you. As a result of everyone's support, the 32nd annual Spring Bird Count was another successful event and is now part of Illinois' ornithological history.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The Spring Bird Count

2004 = 8 May

2005 = 7 May

2006 = 6 May

–Vernon M. Kleen
1825 Clearview Drive Springfield, IL 62704
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TABLE 7: 2003 County Statistics

N/R = No Report

County	Area	Number of Sp.	Number of Birds	Number of Obs.	Number of Ptys	T I M E Start-End	Miles W/D	Hours W/D	County Compiler
Adams	3	136	8,211	21	8	*0300-2200*	19/484	20/59	Al Dierkes
Alexander	1	136	4,674	6	3	*0425-1625	9/180	8/21	Ida Domazlicky
Bond	2	92	1,964	3	1	0600-1930	4/148	3/11	Charley Marbut
Boone	4	139	10,661	25	15	0530-2015	62/362	75/21	Arlene Brie
Brown	3	157	2,086	2	1	*0330-1730	5/150	7/5	Michael Ward
Bureau	4	135	4,711	3	2	*0330-1715	5/140	5/14	Doug Stotz
Calhoun	2	103	5,859	12	6	*0500-1815	4/336	6/36	Wilda Sutherland
Carroll	4	179	8,533	3	3	*0130-2015	9/249	13/25	Jeffrey Baughman
Cass	3	122	2,464	3	1	*0500-1730	3/117	1/10	Robert Randall
Champaign	3	162	8,560	37	18	*0400-2000	51/313	74/21	Beth Chato
Christian	2	112	2,226	8	5	*0400-1930	19/334	22/17	Clark Olson
Clark	2	74	3,141	9	5	0730-2130*	2/98	6/13	Donna Clem
Clay	2	74	661	2	1	0520-1730	2/121	3/7	Terry Esker
Clinton	2	167	4,249	9	5	*0000-1900	22/400	28/42	Dan Kassebaum
Coles	2	111	1,228	11	5	*0230-1720	8/65	14/3	Tyler Funk
Cook	4	192	51,253	110	51	*0410-2025	191/477	307/38	Duane Heaton
Crawford	2	103	4,421	22	7	0515-2030	6/306	8/51	Patricia Neighbors
Cumberland	2	90	821	4	2	*0345-1930	3/32	6/6	Larry Thorsen
De Kalb	4	132	9,943	15	7	*0300-2045	37/308	48/21	Darrell Shambaugh
De Witt	3	120	2,123	9	6	0600-2100*	7/160	16/8	L. Miller-Ishmael
Douglas	2	97	768	2	1	*0430-1230	2/78	3/4	Ted Funk
Du Page	4	165	23,926	101	38	*0450-2100*	178/264	216/19	Bob Fisher
Edgar	2	84	5,273	21	8	0530-2245*	7/292	20/33	Mary Ida Riedell
Edwards	1	80	3,791	4	4	0540-2020	4/114	6/19	Elaine Michels
Effingham	2	117	4,055	9	5	*0430-2015	16/185	32/10	Mary Ann Hoeffliger
Fayette	2	89	1,061	10	7	*0100-2230*	6/97	13/21	Arthur W. Jones
Ford	3	66	572	2	1	*0515-1730	2/20	6/2	Larry David
Franklin	1	105	1,492	2	1	*0200-1900	3/60	6/4	Leonard Stanley
Fulton	3	117	4,109	12	5	0530-1830	10/369	9/40	Helen Gasdorf
Gallatin	1	93	838	1	1	*0300-2030	6/1151	7/7	Ron Bradley
Greene	2	107	1,405	4	2	*0510-1910	1/83	1/13	Dan Martin
Grundy	4	----	-------	---	---	----------	--------	-------	N/R
Hamilton	1	116	3,839	14	14	0520-2200*	28/467	41/34	Hazel Clark
Hancock	3	101	3,334	11	5	*0430-2145*	10/242	9/27	J. Michael Sallee
Hardin	1	95	701	17	4	0610-1845	1/90	1/9	Elizabeth Raikes
Henderson	3	127	2,713	8	6	*0415-1925	14/237	17/23	Chuck Leib
Henry	4	107	1,455	2	1	*0400-1700	3/151	4/7	Randy Nyboer
Iroquois	3	97	2,651	10	5	0630-2100*	16/155	17/17	Robert Dannehl
Jackson	1	131	4,004	7	3	*0305-1935	11/250	13/18	Rhonda Rothrock
Jasper	2	91	1,142	2	1	*0500-1700	5/60	4/6	Scott Simpson

Table 7... Continued on next page

TABLE 7: 2003 County Statistics, continued

County	Area	Number of Sp.	Number of Birds	Number of Obs.	Number of Ptys	T I M E Start-End	Miles W/D	Hours W/D	County Compiler
Jefferson	1	----	-------	---	---	----------	--------	-------	N/R
Jersey	2	132	3,513	10	2	0630-1700	1/119	2/9	Gilbert Ives
Jo Daviess	4	142	12,953	28	8	*0000-1900	21/585	21/65	Grace Storch
Johnson	1	89	1,258	2	1	*0500-2000	2/40	6/3	Ray Boehmer
Kane	4	156	15,404	50	22	*0510-2030	94/461	136/36	Robert Montgomery
Kankakee	4	144	5,138	23	11	*0500-2100*	23/178	40/12	Etta Aubertin
Kendall	4	124	4,024	30	13	*0000-1730	54/223	76/22	Dave Ramsden
Knox	3	163	12,928	27	16	*0000-2200*	32/732	50/72	Phil Reyburn
Lake	4	181	23,510	47	18	*0330-2330*	109/448	142/29	Danny Diaz
La Salle	4	166	13,605	29	13	*0400-2030	56/813	63/59	John McKee
Lawrence	2	----	-------	---	---	----------	--------	-------	N/R
Lee	4	112	1,980	6	4	0515-1730	12/97	18/10	John Bivins
Livingston	3	----	-------	---	---	----------	--------	-------	N/R
Logan	3	104	3,906	22	9	0520-2000	15/332	24/22	Margaret Lanterman
Macon	3	134	2,662	13	6	*0415-1930	19/178	26/13	Ross Thompson
Macoupin	2	84	655	2	1	*0430-1615	6/40	7/2	Vicki Hedrick
Madison	2	142	4,762	14	6	*0000-2200*	24/267	32/13	Frank Holmes
Marion	2	89	2,226	6	3	0530-1500	3/125	4/13	Terry Esker
Marshall	3	102	2,666	5	2	*0500-1600	3/160	3/17	Mary Hill
Mason	3	162	9,438	13	5	*0400-1830	32/265	39/18	Richard Bjorklund
Massac	1	157	3,762	5	4	*0100-1800	17/180	21/10	Frank Bennett
McDonough	3	142	10,390	29	18	*0100-2000	53/316	76/42	David/Heidi Benson
McHenry	4	164	16,256	50	30	*0430-2015	67/610	77/59	David Frey
McLean	3	149	11,280	17	7	*0500-2000	33/320	42/23	Dale Birkenholz
Menard	3	114	1,971	4	3	0600-1940	10/84	11/8	Ken Lockhart
Mercer	4	118	2,589	3	3	*0000-1930	2/191	4/26	Bill Bertrand
Monroe	1	117	3,400	9	4	*0435-1730	13/120	19/14	Mary Regan
Montgomery	2	108	1,403	3	2	0700-1935	15/115	11/8	Mark Phipps
Morgan	2	----	-------	---	---	----------	--------	-------	N/R
Moultrie	2	76	788	4	2	0520-1930	3/45	5/2	Eric Smith
Ogle	4	56	445	1	1	0600-2000	4/4	6/52	Richie Wolf
Peoria	3	----	-------	---	---	----------	--------	-------	N/R
Perry	1	117	3,460	2	2	0530-1830	11/212	9/13	Brian Chandler
Piatt	3	125	4,279	19	12	*0450-2100*	25/147	30/12	Charlene Anchor
Pike	2	135	7,006	19	11	*0500-2005	6/490	8/42	Evelyn Hoover
Pope	1	112	2,817	7	3	*0500-1830	7/172	15/16	Daniel Spivey
Pulaski	1	114	2,012	5	3	*0500-2130*	2/116	6/16	Bob Lindsay
Putnam	4	118	3,350	3	2	*0430-2000	6/90	7/5	Michele Simone
Randolph	1	138	4,411	9	3	*0435-2200*	12/275	17/13	Ann Sanders
Richland	2	102	8,194	15	7	0545-1945	10/376	11/43	Frank Storment
Rock Island	4	151	6,818	18	9	*0500-1815	15/412	29/36	Tim Murphy
St. Clair	1	143	6,087	7	5	0525-2015	23/362	35/17	Richard Call
Saline	1	----	-------	---	---	----------	--------	-------	N/R
Sangamon	2	158	5,516	6	5	*0400-2000	12/292	17/25	David Bohlen
Schuyler	3	64	2,476	58	7	0800-1800	9/43	7/10	Harold Hedden
Scott	2	108	2,377	7	3	0520-1730	6/165	8/16	Steve Tavender
Shelby	2	130	3,199	8	4	*0500-2030	13/277	22/10	Karen Forcum
Stark	3	----	-------	---	---	----------	--------	-------	N/R
Stephenson	4	94	4,992	15	5	0600-1500	36/243	20/25	George Visel
Tazewell	3	102	2,752	1	1	0520-1930	5/168	5/9	Mike Miller
Union	1	167	12,845	10	7	*0145-2000	28/457	28/49	Vernon Kleen
Vermilion	3	149	7,923	13	9	0530-2130*	25/380	39/26	Marilyn Campbell
Wabash	1	126	1,770	10	5	0600-2030	11/98	21/13	Gary Adams
Warren	3	63	939	10	8	0600-1900	6/53	7/6	Lynn Schoonover
Washington	1	93	1,007	4	2	0700-2300*	4/111	14/3	Martin Kemper
Wayne	1	----	-------	---	---	----------	--------	-------	N/R
White	1	86	690	4	3	*0500-1900	9/82	16/10	Mark Fridley
Whiteside	4	111	2,011	4	2	0530-1830	10/2408	7/6	Carol Jackley
Will	4	166	16,277	44	17	*0300-2000	48/498	59/33	Jim Kelly
Williamson	1	139	5,797	12	7	*0430-2000	22/237	27/27	Tracy Evans
Winnebago	4	163	21,506	33	15	*0410-2230*	142/519	113/35	Jack Armstrong
Woodford	3	77	1,001	2	1	0615-1430	2/110	3/8	Brenda Garman

Field Notes

Magnolia Warbler drawing by James T. Ziebol.

2003 Spring Migration

by Paul R. Clyne

The 2003 spring migration season was fairly uneventful. Reports were received for 294 routine species, plus 14 species requiring review by the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee.

The onset of this spring's migration was the latest in the history of this journal (dating to 1992). For example, only two lone songbirds were reported as migrant arrivals in northern Illinois for the entire month of February – one American Pipit, and one American Tree Sparrow. This was the first spring since 1993 in which, e.g., northern arrivals of Song Sparrows, Red-winged Blackbirds, Common Grackles, and Brown-headed Cowbirds were all delayed until March.

Among non-passerines, the list of northern arrival dates in February was exhausted by six species of ducks at Chicago's Jackson Park, one of which was also reported in Kane County. Elsewhere in the state, reports of February arrivals were confined to three additional species of ducks, plus single reports of four Horned Grebes, eight Sandhill Cranes, one Killdeer, five American Woodcocks, one Fox Sparrow, and 81 Rusty Blackbirds.

Of course, robins, grackles, and cowbirds eventually did show up statewide, but the trend toward late appearances continued through the spring. Weather certainly played a role, as this spring was nearly a carbon copy of the previous one. It was cold, wet, and dreary over much of the state, but overly dry in the south, with a couple of brief fronts of hot weather in April.

The first big push of routine migrants was recorded statewide on Saturday 8 March. Reports of migrant arrivals were received for a remarkable 45 species on this date, more than on any other date this spring. Indeed, excluding the Spring Bird Count (SBC) date, 8 March is the second most frequent date cited below, only narrowly edged out by the first Saturday in May. The next most frequent date documents the first weekend day when the backlog of early migrants finally made it to the northern tier of the state on Sunday, 16 March.

April began with a minor warm front, followed by subnormal temperatures until a blast of hot weather rolled in under gusty southwest winds on 14-15 April. This front was evidently just a bit too early in the season to precipitate widespread migration (only one high count amid this front merited boldfacing), although 36 species were reported as migrant arrivals over the two-day stretch, the most notable being a record-early Cape May Warbler.

The highlight of May was the unusual coincidence of excellent conditions for migration and the statewide SBC on 10 May. While no all-time high counts were attained, counts for four species (Yellow-billed Cuckoo, White-eyed Vireo, Indigo Bunting, and Orchard Oriole) were second only to the SBC of 1991, and the highest counts of the 2003 spring passage were obtained on the SBC for 65 species, of which 50 were passerines.

Waterfowl data were fairly routine this spring, with a few boldfaced high counts and dates. A tally of **300,000 Snow Geese** at Carlyle Lake is nearly unprecedented, but for a like count at this site in February of 2001. The one higher count (320,000) in the Illinois journals is an aerial survey datum from Feb 1997. The most unusual date of occurrence among waterfowl was provided by Illinois' first June record for Harlequin Duck.

Interesting loon records included an inland Red-throated Loon at Marion County and a very late Common Loon at Champaign County on 11 Jun. Grebes were rather well reported, highlighted by a very late Red-necked Grebe on 17 May. The boom in American White Pelican populations continued primarily via increased numbers in northeastern Illinois, where over 1000 individuals were found at various sites. Among the new record high counts set this spring, the tally of **17,000 Double-crested Cormorants** at Rend Lake was certainly among the most astonishing.

Populations of herons and egrets were normal to low; species below-par were Least Bittern, Great Egret, and Yellow-crowned Night-Heron. One of the best finds amid a warm front in early April was a **White-faced Ibis** on the very early date of **3 April**. Swarming insects attracted phenomenal concentrations of up to **83 Mississippi Kites** in Alexander County. An article about this phenomenon will appear in the next issue of *Meadowlark*. It was no real flight year for Northern Goshawks, so two very late records (including one from southern Illinois) came as a surprise.

Four reports of Yellow Rails is the largest turnout since 1995. Sandhill Cranes were widely reported, with an impressive flight of several thousand over Cook County on 16 March. Shorebirds provided a good variety of highlights. Illinois' fourth documented **Snowy Plover**, found at Meredosia Lake, was among the greatest rarities of the season. Carlyle Lake again hosted some remarkable concentrations of shorebirds, including **500 Greater Yellowlegs**, **2000 Lesser Yellowlegs**, **4000 Pectoral Sandpipers** and **15 Baird's Sandpipers**. Elsewhere in the state, **107 Solitary Sandpipers** were tallied in a panoramic scan of a flooded lowland at Havana, and **21 Marbled Godwits** visited Waukegan.

No unusual species of gulls or terns were reported; the most noteworthy record among these groups was a flight of **80 Least Terns** in interior Massac County. Black-billed Cuckoo had another poor season, while counts of up to **74 Yellow-billed Cuckoos** in southern Illinois are the first single-party tallies in excess of 15 birds since the standing record count of 91 birds from the 1991 SBC.

A **Burrowing Owl** was an unexpected treat for a few birders in Champaign County during its one-day stay. See article and photos in this issue. Reports of other owl species were normal to low; poor numbers of Great Horned Owls in particular may be connected to West Nile Virus. An impressive spring tally of **158 Common Nighthawks** in far southern Illinois is surprising in light of this species' decline in recent years. Also surprising was a record high count of **27 Chuck-will's-widows** on 8 May, as the few previous spring tallies in excess of 10 birds have all been SBC data. Illinois' first spring record for **Rufous Hummingbird** was provided by an adult male photographed in Lee County. A record-shattering tally of over **115 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** in Lake County is likely to remain a state record for years to come.

Highlights among passerines were modest. There were poor numbers of Blue Jays and American Crows (West Nile Virus?), while a count of **150 Fish Crows** is 50% higher than previous spring data. A couple of stunning flights involving many thousands of swallows, dominated by Bank, Cliff and Barn Swallows, were reported at mid-May, although actual counts and species distribution are vague.

For the sixth consecutive spring, populations of Veery as well as Gray-cheeked and Swainson's Thrushes were disturbingly poor. A **Varied Thrush** lingering into May provided a record late date for Illinois (see photos published in this report) and one of only a handful or so of records applicable to spring migrants.

Several warbler species logged significantly early arrival dates (see species accounts), with the most extraordinarily early being a Black-and-white Warbler at Carlyle Lake amid the heavy migration of 16 March. The most unexpected warbler of the spring was a Palm Warbler of the distinctive eastern subspecies, documented in Du Page County on 10 April.

Passages of sparrows were generally about par. A tally of 1,380 White-throated Sparrows at Chicago set a new Illinois high count, and 26 singing Henslow's Sparrows at Goose Lake Prairie provide the highest spring tally for northern Illinois. A Blue Grosbeak photographed at a Cook County feeder the first two days of March was wholly out of season and had presumably wintered locally. A remarkable single-observer SBC count of **331 Indigo Buntings** in Union County is second only to the multiple-observer tally of 768 from the same county during the 1991 SBC.

Interesting records among blackbirds included a record high count of **300 Bobolinks** at Jackson County and near-record highs of **80,000 Common Grackles** and **29 Orchard Orioles**. Illinois' first spring record for **Great-tailed Grackle** was provided by a female photographed in Carroll County on the SBC. It was not a flight year for winter finches.

The foundation of this summary is the detailed information on migration limits and populations as submitted directly to the compiler (or indirectly via the Illinois Department of Conservation) by field observers across the state. Migration limits and maximum counts are provided, where available, from each of the three subsections of Illinois – North, Central, and South – as mapped out in Bohlen's (1978) *Annotated Check-list of the Birds of Illinois*. Additional data are selectively included for species and areas of special interest.

Sincere thanks are extended to the following observers, who supplied all the data for the 2500+ records included in this summary. These observers are credited by their initials following each record; disambiguating citation forms are indicated where needed. As in previous reports, the sequencing of observers below is based on alphabetization of last and first initials or citation forms rather than on alphabetization of last names: Bill Atwood, Douglas Anderson, Jill Anderson, Cindy Alberico (CAl), Carmen Arendt (CAr), Arlene Brei, Frank Bennett, H. David Bohlen, Jeff Baughman, Joan C. Bruchman, Michael T. Bowers, Nancy Bent, Paul Biggers, Scott Baughman, Steven D. Bailey, Tadas Birutis, Todd E. Bugg, Richard & Sigurd Bjorklund (R&SBj), Marilyn Bell (MBl), Margaret Baker (MBr), Mike Baltz (MBz), David Currie, Elizabeth Chato, Jeff Chapman, Karin Cassel, Melinda Born Chapman, Paul Clyne, Shawn Clubb, Spring Bird Count (10 May 2003), Scott L. Carpenter, Peter Cruikshank (PCk), Alfred Dierkes, Danny Diaz, Donald R. Dann, Karl David, Pat Durkin, Sheryl DeVore, Jason Ebaugh, Darlene Fiske, Matthew Fraker, Robert & Karen Fisher, Sue Friscia, Steven Freed (SFd), David Fletcher (DFr), Urs Geiser, Ann Harness, Brian Herriott, Cary Hillegonds, Caroline & Leo Herzenberg, Frank Holmes, James E. Hampson, Ken Hampson, L. Barrie Hunt, Larry L. Hood, Mary Ann Hoeffliger, Roger Hayes, Robert D. Hughes, Ted Harms, Rhetta Jack, Allison Klement, Dan M. Kassebaum, David Kvernes, John Koch, Maggie Kurcz, Vernon Kleen, Craig Litteken, Joe Lill, Vicki Lang, Carolyn Marsh, Don Mullison, Dan E. Miller, D. James Mountjoy, Joe Merkelbach, Keith McMullen, Richard Messenger, Mike Matson, Travis A. Mahan, Thomas U. May, Walter Marcisz, Michael O'Connell, Marcella Parunko, Peter Page, Harriet Rylaarsdam, Jennette S. Rader, Marjory A. Rand, Michael L. Retter, Phil Reyburn, Roger Reason, Rhonda S. [Monroe] Rothrock, William Rowe, Alan Stokie, David E. Semler, Douglas F. Stotz, Darrell J. Shambaugh, Eric Secker, Illinois Ornithological Society (field trips), James F. Steffen, Joseph L. Suchecki, James O. Smith, Jeffrey R. Sanders, Leonard Stanley, Midge Saunders, Marsha J. Steffen, Muriel R. Smith, Thomas S. Schulenberg, Wes Serafin, Jeff Sundberg (JSg), Jim Solum (JSm), Janice Sweet (JSt), Berdeau H. (Bernie) Twait, Craig Thayer, Jennifer Templeton, Allan Welby, Daniel T. Williams, Jr., Eric Walters, Geoffrey A. Williamson, Kate Weber, Patrick Ward, Peter Weber (PWe), Allen & Pat Yenerich, Jerry & Jody Zamirowski, and James P. Ziebol.

The 2003 Spring Migration

[BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK
10 May (male), Macon Co—one accepted IL record published to date.]

Greater White-fronted Goose

EA: 4 Mar (12), Lks Riverbend (EC); 13 Mar (4), Roy C. Blackwell FP (Du Page Co) (ES); 16 Mar (250), Heyworth (McLean Co) (TEB). **MC**: **3442**, Chau, 13 Mar (R&SBj)—record number for census route initiated in 1996-97 (R&SBj); 535, Durand (Winnebago Co), 22 Mar (DTW); 500, Carl.C, 8 Mar (DMK); 300, Evergreen L (McLean Co), 13 Mar (MLR). **LD**: 23 Mar (32), Pulaski Co (KM); 23 Mar, HL (FH); 20 Mar (4), near Victoria (Knox Co) (DJM). **Other**: **3-26 May** (injured), Carl.F (DMK).

Snow Goose

EA: 4 Mar (2), Lks Riverbend (EC); 8 Mar (300, both white & blue morphs), nw. of Marietta (Fulton Co) (LLH); 9 Mar (2), Blackhawk FP (Kane Co) (ES). **MC**: **300,000**, Carl.C, 6 Mar (DMK); **15,448** (8163 white morph, 7285 blue morph), Chau, 13 Mar (R&SBj)—**record high counts** for post-February spring migrants; 2570, Pomona, 3 Mar (RSR); 600, Galesburg (Knox Co), 20 Mar (DJM). **LD**: 3 May (20), Carl.C (DMK); 26 Apr (16), Tamalco (Bond Co) (TAM). **Other**: 18 May (injured), Carl.C (DMK).

Ross's Goose

EA: 13 Mar, Evergreen L (McLean Co) (MLR); 22 Mar, Durand (Winnebago Co) (DTW). **MC**: 8, Carlson L (Fulton Co), 5 Apr (TAM); 3, Carl.L, 2 Mar (KM). **LD**: **2 May** (ad.), Arlington Heights (Cook Co) (KW, *JCB:ph.); 6 Apr (possibly injured), McLean Co (ES, MBC, JC); 2 Mar (3), Carl.L (KM). Only white morph individuals reported.

Canada Goose

MC: 2500, UCCA, 22 Feb (KM); 1999, Chau, 6 Mar (R&SBj); 500, Carl.C, 15 Mar (DMK). "**Richardson's Goose**": **MC**: 20, Evergreen L (McLean Co), 13 Mar (MLR); 7, Parnell (DeWitt Co), 4 Mar (TAM).

Mute Swan

EA: 2 Mar (2), Linc.P (GAW); 6 Mar (2), Evanston (EW). **MC**: **51**, Wolf L, LCal, 8 Mar (WM); 30, Spring L (Tazewell Co), 12 May (VK, PW et al.); 2, HL, 25-27 May (DMK). **LD**: 1 Jun (4), Montrose H (GAW); 23 Apr (pair migrating north), Evanston (EW); 6 Apr, Grundy Co (MBC).

The following abbreviations have been used throughout this report:

EA	Earliest Arrivals
MC	Maximum Counts
LD	Latest Departures
m.ob.	many observers
:ph.	photographed record
:video	videotaped record
*	documented record
IORC	Illinois Ornithological Records Committee
ad.	adult(s)
imm.	immature(s)
CA	Conservation Area
FP	Forest Preserve
(S)FWA	(State) Fish & Wildlife Area
L	Lake
(S)NA	(State) Natural Area
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge
P	Park
R	River
SP	State Park
Wds	Woods

Transparent directionals: (n. = north(ern), ne. = northeast(ern), etc.) are used where applicable.

Headings for species requiring IORC review in parts of Illinois or in some plumages are **underlined**, while those for species requiring review of all records are **CAPITALIZED AND UNDERLINED**. Those not yet voted on by IORC are enclosed in brackets in the main body of the report. Noteworthy dates and sites of occurrence and remarkably high counts for the state as a whole or for particular regions of the state are **underlined and boldfaced**, and some further editorial remarks are **boldfaced**.

Where dates of occurrenee within a given subsection of Illinois are identical, arrival dates are arranged north to south within that subsection, and departures are arranged south to north. Identical maximum counts are sequenced by date, and secondarily north to south.

The 1996 DeLorme *Illinois Atlas & Gazetteer* has been used as a standard for spelling of most place names. Remarks on the historical significance of records are informed almost entirely by Bohlen's 1989 *Birds of Illinois* and the seasonal summaries in the subsequently published Illinois journals.

Bruce WMA	Bruce Wildlife Management Area (Moultrie Co)
Busey Wds	Busey Woods, Urbana (Champaign Co)
Carl.B/C/F	Carlyle Lake (Bond Co/Clinton Co/Fayette Co)
Carl.L	Carlyle Lake (county unspecified)
Chau	Chautauqua National Wildlife Refuge (Mason Co)
Chi	Chicago (Cook Co)
ChiBotGdn	Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe (Cook Co)
Chinquapin Psv	Chinquapin Nature Preserve (Woodford Co)
Clin.L	Clinton Lake (DeWitt Co)
Crab Or.	Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge (Williamson Co)
Decatur	Decatur (Macon Co)
Evanston	Evanston (Cook Co)
Fishhk	Fishhook Wildlife Management Area (Moultrie Co)
Ft Massac	Fort Massac State Park (Massac Co)
Grant P	Grant Park, Chicago (Cook Co)
GrtLakes	Great Lakes Naval Training Center (Lake Co)
Hennepin L	Hennepin-Hopper Lake (Putnam Co)
Heron Pond	Heron Pond-Little Black Slough Natural Area (Johnson Co)
HL	Horseshoe Lake (Madison Co)
Humiston Wds	Humiston Woods (Livingston Co)
IBSP	Illinois Beach State Park (Lake Co)
IL	Illinois
IIT campus, Chi	Illinois Institute of Technology campus, Chicago (Cook Co)
Indian Rdg N, LCal	Indian Ridge Marsh North, L Calumet area (Cook Co)
JP	Jackson Park, Chicago (Cook Co)
Knox College	Knox College field station (Green Oaks) (Knox Co)
LCal	Lake Calumet area (southeastern Cook Co)
Linc.P	Lincoln Park, Chicago (Cook Co)
Lks Riverbend	Lakes at Riverbend (former Mahomet gravel pits) (Champaign Co)
M.Arb	Morton Arboretum, Lisle (Du Page Co)
Mermet L	Mermet Lake (Massac Co)
Montrose H	Montrose Harbor, Chicago (Cook Co)
MPrice L&D	Mel Price Lock & Dam (Madison Co)
Palos area	Palos Forest Preserves area (southwestern Cook Co)
Pecatonica	Pecatonica (Winnebago Co)
Pomona	Pomona (Jackson Co)
Pr.Rdg	Prairie Ridge State Natural Area (Jasper Co)
Rend L	Rend Lake (Franklin & Jefferson Cos)
Rock Cut	Rock Cut State Park (Winnebago Co)
Rockfd	Rockford (Winnebago Co)
Salt Crk	Salt Creek (Cook Co)
Spoon L	Spoon Lake (Knox Co)
UCCA	Union County Conservation Area (Union Co)
Urbana	Urbana (Champaign Co)
Wauk	Waukegan (Lake Co)
Winthrop H	Winthrop Harbor (including North Point Marina) (Lake Co)

Tundra Swan

EA: 1 Mar (through 19 Apr), Crump Pond (Woodford Co) (MF); 13 Mar, Evergreen L (McLean Co) (MLR); 14 Mar (2), Hennepin L (DFS, PCk). **MC**: 3, Chau, winter - 3 Apr (R&SBj). **LD**: 25 Apr (imm.), Clin.L (TAM); 15 Apr, L Depue (Bureau Co) (DFS, PCk); 8 Mar, Mermet L (KM).

Wood Duck

EA: 4 Mar (12), Lks Riverbend (EC); 8 Mar (5), St. Charles (Kane Co) (ES); 16 Mar (male), JP (SLC, PC). **MC**: 143, Chau, 20 Mar (R&SBj); 59, sw. Union Co, 10 May (VK, MTB); 50, Marshall Co, 26 Apr (DFS); 25, Pecatonica, 10 May (DTW); 23, Montrose H, 3 Apr (GAW).

Gadwall

EA: 21 Feb (2 pairs), JP (PC, KC); 22 Feb (6), Mermet L (KM, FB, DMK); 18 Mar (6), Kaneville (Kane Co) (DJS); 24 Mar (9), Boone Co (AB, MAR). **MC**: **2150**, HL, 26 Mar (KM); 1430, Hennepin L, 3 Apr (DFS); 796, Chau, 1 May (R&SBj). **LD**: 17 May (4), Putnam Co (KM); 14 May (male), LCal (EW); 10 May, HL (FH); 2 May, near Victoria (Knox Co) (DJM).

American Wigeon

EA: 22 Feb (25), Pulaski Co (KM, DMK, FB); 12 Mar (12), Lks Riverbend (EC); 14 Mar (2), Tekakwitha Wds FP (Kane Co) (ES); 25 Mar (pair), JP (PC, DC). **MC**: 705, Hennepin L, 3 Apr (DFS); 548, Chau, 10 Apr (R&SBj); 100, Grassy L (Union Co), 4 Apr (KM, CT). **LD**: 17 May, Carl.C (DMK); 14 May (male), LCal (EW); 1 May (3), Knox Co (DJM).

American Black Duck

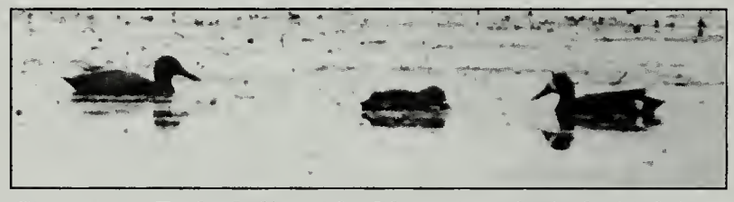
EA: 26 Feb, Lks Riverbend (EC); 8 Mar (2), St. Charles (Kane Co) (ES); 14 Mar (8), Wolf L, LCal (CM). **MC**: 154, Chau, 13 Mar (R&SBj); 52, Heidecke L (Grundy Co), 1 Mar (GAW); 30, Carl.L, 2 Feb (KM); 30, Roy C. Blackwell FP (Du Page Co), 21 May (JC). **LD**: 11 May, Evanston (GAW); 9 Apr (3), Crab Or. (KM); 23 Mar (2), Carl.C (DMK).

Mallard

MC: 48,482, Chau, 15 Mar (R&SBj); 6500, Carl.L, 2 Feb (KM); 950, Putnam Co, 14 Mar (DFS, PCk); 500, Carl.C, 12 Apr (DMK); 130, Evanston, 16 Mar (EW). **LD** (far south): 4 Apr (1200), Grassy L (Union Co) (KM, CT).

Blue-winged Teal

EA: 8 Mar (2 males), Bruce WMA (TAM); 8 Mar (2), Johnson Co (KM); 9 Mar, HL (FH); 16 Mar (pair), Evanston (EW); 22 Mar (2), Pecatonica (DTW). **MC**: 1096, Chau, 17 Apr (R&SBj); 1000, Carl.C, 30 Mar (DMK); 900, Frank Bellrose Refuge (Pulaski Co), 21 Apr (RSR, DK); 305, Hennepin L, 15 Apr (DFS, PCk); 200+ "(...most ever here)", McGinnis Slough, Palos area, early Apr (WS). **LD**: 15 May (male), JP (KC). See next for hybrid.



Cinnamon Teal (left) with Blue-winged Teal (right) at Horseshoe Lake, Madison County. 28 April 2003. Photo by Frank Holmes.

CINNAMON TEAL

LD: 28 Apr (male), HL (SC, FH, DMK). **Hybrid**: **Cinnamon x Blue-winged Teal**: 6 Apr (male), Carl.C (DMK).

Northern Shoveler

EA: 8 Mar (3), Roy C. Blackwell FP (Du Page Co) (ES, UG); 12 Mar (12), Lks Riverbend (EC); 16 Mar (10), JP (PC, SLC). **MC**: **6570**, Chau, 3 Apr (R&SBj); **4660**, Clear L (Mason Co), 20 Apr (R&SBj); 1650, Hennepin L, 15 Apr (DFS, PCk); 1600 (800 at each of two sites), Carl.C & O'Fallon (St. Clair Co), 30 Mar (DMK). **LD**: 18 May (male), LCal (WM); 17 May (8), Putnam Co (KM); 10 May, HL (FH).

Northern Pintail

EA: 8 Mar (5), Wolf L, LCal (WM); 15 Mar (2), Riverside P, St. Charles (Kane Co) (ES); 15 Mar (20), Arcola marsh (DeWitt Co) (EC). **MC**: 1694, Chau, 13 Mar (R&SBj); 1012, Clear L (Mason Co), 20 Mar (R&SBj); 1000, Carl.L, 2 Feb (KM); 150, Hennepin L, 14 Mar (DFS); 71 "(highest ever for me in this area)", McGinnis Slough, Palos area, 21 Mar (WS). **LD**: 10 May, Carl.C (DMK); 10 May (2), HL (FH); 26 Apr (male), LCal (EW).

Green-winged Teal

EA: 22 Feb (100), Johnson Co (KM, DMK, FB); 12 Mar (4), Lks Riverbend (EC); 14 Mar, Tekakwitha Wds FP (Kane Co) (ES); 16 Mar (male), JP (SLC). **MC**: **5050**, Clear L (Mason Co), 27 Mar (R&SBj); 1258, Chau, 3 Apr (R&SBj); 800, Carl.C, 30 Mar (DMK); 460, Hennepin L, 3 Apr (DFS); 100, Pr.Rdg, 21 Mar (KM, CL). **LD**: 18 May (male), LCal (WM); 17 May (6), Putnam Co (KM); 10 May (5), Carl.C (DMK).

Canvasback

EA: 4 Mar (12), Lks Riverbend (EC). **MC**: **10,000**, Carl.C, 6 Mar (DMK); "1000s," Mississippi R (Henderson & Hancock Cos), 16 Mar (DJM); 154, Hennepin L, 14 Mar (DFS, PCk); 150, Spring L (Carroll Co), 10 Apr (DTW). **LD**: **24 May**, sewage lagoons at Monmouth (Warren Co) (PR); 10 May, HL (FH); 26 Apr, Hennepin L (DFS); 5 Apr, Grassy L (Union Co) (KM, FB, CT); 3 Apr (4), Montrose H (GAW).

Redhead

EA: 19 Feb (9), JP (KC); 8 Mar, Blackhawk FP (Kane Co) (ES); 12 Mar (4), Lks Riverbend (EC). **MC**: 120, Hennepin L, 14 Mar (DFS, PCk); 55, Calumet P, LCal, 8 Mar (CM); 30, Carl.C, 15 Mar (DMK); 13, Chau, 13 Mar (R&SBj). **LD**: 22 Apr (2), McGinnis Slough, Palos area (WS); 4 Apr, Grassy L (Union Co) (KM, CT).

Ring-necked Duck

EA: 20 Feb (male), JP (EW); 23 Feb (2), Batavia (Kane Co) (UG); 26 Feb (10), Lks Riverbend (EC). **MC**: 1900, Hennepin L, 14 Mar (DFS, PCk); 850, HL, 16 Mar (FH); 621, Chau, 20 Mar (R&SBj). **LD**: 16 May (3), McGinnis Slough, Palos area (EW); 15 May (2), Hennepin L (DFS); 10 May (2), Carl.C (DMK); 2 May, Spoon L (DJM).

Greater Scaup

EA: 8 Mar, Fabyan FP (Kane Co) (ES); 9 Mar (3), Oswego (Kendall Co) (DJS); 29 Mar (3), Rock Cut (DTW). **MC**: 25, Calumet P, LCal, 8 Mar (CM). **LD**: 10 May (2), HL (FH); 25 Apr, Montrose H (GAW); 12 Apr (6), Heyworth (McLean Co) (DTW); 27 Mar (male), Jake Wolf Fish Hatchery (Mason Co) (R&SBj); 23 Mar (3), Carl.C (DMK). Poor numbers reported from L Michigan suggest continued decline.

Lesser Scaup

EA: 21 Feb (14), JP (PC, KC); 4 Mar (20), Lks Riverbend (EC); 8 Mar (19), Batavia (Kane Co) (ES). **MC**: 4131 (3017 at Chau, 1114 at Clear L), Mason Co (R&SBj); 2190, Hennepin L, 14 Mar (DFS, PCk); 1000, Carl.C, 6 Mar (DMK); 331, Montrose H, 3 Apr (GAW). **LD**: 28-29 May (male), Burnham Harbor (Cook Co) (DFS); 25 May, Crump Pond (Woodford Co) (MF); 23 May, Steward Habitat Area (Lee Co) (DJS); 4 May, HL (FH).

Harlequin Duck

EA: 1-2 Mar, North Branch of Chicago R, Chi (AS, GAW, m.ob.). **LD**: **2-3 Jun** (male), Wauk (*JL:ph., JSm, m.ob.)—**record IL late date**.

Surf Scoter

EA: 20 Feb (2), JP (EW); 8 Mar, South Shore Cultural Center, Chi (CM). **MC**: **12**, Winthrop H, 5 Apr (AS)—ties for record spring high count; 3, JP, 28 Feb - 11 Mar (WS, PC et al.). **LD**: 18 Apr (female), Rainbow Beach, Chi (DFS); 30 Mar (male), JP (PC). The three birds at JP likely accounted for all sightings except those at Winthrop H.

White-winged Scoter

EA: 4 Mar (ad. female), Clin.L (TAM); 8-9 Mar (female), Winthrop H (AS); 13 Mar, Wilmette (Cook Co) (EW). **MC/LD**: 6, Winthrop H, 5 Apr (DTW, AS).

Black Scoter

LD: 24 Apr (female), Rock Island Co (SFd)—the only report.

Long-tailed Duck

EA: 23 Mar (male in transitional plumage), Saganashkee Slough, Palos area (Cook Co) (ES, WS, m.ob.). **MC**: 7, Winthrop H, 5 Apr (DTW); 4 (male + 3 females), Rend L, 26 Mar (KM, CL). **LD**: 1 May, IBSP (JC); 5 Apr (7), as above; 29 Mar (male in molt), Rend L (Franklin Co) (TAM).

Bufflehead

EA: 22 Feb (16), JP (KC); 12 Mar (3), Lks Riverbend (EC); 16 Mar, McKinley Wds FP (Will Co) (UG). **MC**: 106, Hennepin L, 3 Apr (DFS); 105, Chau, 10 Apr (R&SBj); 86, McGinnis Slough, Palos area, 22 Apr (WS); 30, HL, 16 Mar (FH). **LD**: 15 May (4), Hennepin L (DFS); 15 May, Wauk (KM); 12 Apr (10), Carl.C (DMK).

Common Goldeneye

EA: 4 Mar, Lks Riverbend (EC). **MC**: **1000**, Carl.C, 6 Mar (DMK); 150, Rend L, 22 Feb (KM, DMK, FB); 135, Fox R (Kane Co), 8 Mar (ES); 117, Mississippi R near Port Byron (Rock Island Co), 8 Mar (GAW); 84, Hennepin L, 14 Mar (DFS, PCk); 27, Chau, 13 Mar (R&SBj). **LD**: 15 Apr, L Rawson (Bureau Co) (DFS, PCk); 13 Apr, Hennepin L (DJS, UG); 12 Apr (ad. female), near Towanda (McLean Co) (TAM); 1 Apr (male), JP (PC); 23 Mar (3), Carl.C (DMK).

[BARROW'S GOLDENEYE
LD: 2 Mar (male), Lake Co.]

Hooded Merganser

EA: 5 Mar (2), Clin.L (EC); 7 Mar (12), Quincy Bay SFWA (Adams Co) (AD); 8 Mar (2), Blackhawk FP (Kane Co) (ES); 14 Mar (2), Wolf L, LCal (CM). **MC**: 120, Hennepin L, 14 Mar (DFS, PCk); 42 (21 at Chau, 21 at Clear L), Mason Co, 13 Mar (R&SBj); 35, Rock Cut, 29 Mar (DTW); 34, Adams Co, 14 Mar (AD); 10, Carl.C, 15 Mar (DMK). **LD**: 10 May (2 males), JP (PC, SLC); 1 May, Spoon L (DJM); 12 Apr (4), Carl.C (DMK).

Common Merganser

MC: 795, Chau, 6 Mar (R&SBj); 225, Hennepin L, 14 Mar (DFS, PCk); 165, Heidecke L (Grundy Co), 1 Mar (GAW); 150, Carl.L, 2 Feb (KM). **LD**: 3 May (injured), Carl.C (DMK); 13 Apr (3), airport quarry at Rockfd (DTW); 12 Apr (10), Bakers L, Palatine (Cook Co) (KM); 18 Mar, HL (FH); 16 Mar (female), Monmouth sewage lagoons (Warren Co) (DJM).

Red-breasted Merganser

EA: 8 Mar, Fabyan FP (Kane Co) (ES); 13 Mar, Urbana (EC); 14 Mar, HL (KM). **MC**: 1525, Evanston, 24 Apr (EW); 516, Montrose H, 3 Apr (GAW); 50, Carl.C, 23 Mar (DMK); 21, Rock Cut, 23 Mar (DTW). **LD**: 18 May (2), Rainbow Beach, Chi (WS); 17 May, Lks Riverbend (EC); 4 May, Spring L (Carroll Co) (DTW); 18 Apr, airport quarry at Rockfd (DTW); 12 Apr (3), Carl.C (DMK); 11 Apr, HL (FH).

Ruddy Duck

EA: 16 Mar (5), widewaters of Des Plaines R, Channahon (Will Co) (UG); 16 Mar (2), Dallas City (Hancock Co) (DJM); 23 Mar (17), Rock Cut (DTW);. **MC**: 3121, Chau, 3 Apr (R&SBj); 3000, Carl.C, 15 Mar & 30 Mar (DMK); 500, HL, 7 Mar (FH); 485, Putnam Co, 15 Apr (DFS, PCk); 295+, McGinnis Slough, Palos area, 22 Apr (WS).

Ring-necked Pheasant

MC: 8, Lee Co, 19 Apr (DFS); 6, Springbrook Prairie FP, Naperville (Du Page Co), 3 May (AW); 2, Nelson L Marsh (Kane Co), 1 Apr (ES). Some additional reports of singles in Cook & Du Page Cos.

Greater Prairie-Chicken

MC: 8, Pr.Rdg, 21 Mar (KM, CL); 3, Stephen Forbes SP (Marion Co), 8 Mar (DMK).

Wild Turkey

MC: 30, Chinquapin Psv, 16 Apr—"expanding all along the Mackinaw River through Tazewell, Woodford and McLean Counties" (MF); 21, Vermont City reservoir (McDonough Co), 2 Apr (LLH); 16, Freeport (Stephenson Co), 10 Apr (DTW); 16, Crab Or., 17 Apr (KM); 3, Jackson Co, 10 May (RSR, CAr, RM).

Northern Bobwhite

MC: 26, Effingham Co, 7 May (MAH); 16, Lee Co, 19 Apr (DFS); 12, Carl.C, 31 May (DMK); 8, HL, 26 Mar (KM); 3, Pecatonica, 10 May (DTW).

Red-throated Loon

EA: 29-31 Mar, Stephen Forbes SP (Marion Co) (TUM, KM); 3 Apr & 5 Apr, Montrose H (GAW). **LD**: 21 Apr, Highland Park (Lake Co) (DRD).

Common Loon

EA: 17 Mar (2), Rend L (KM); 22 Mar, Saganashkee Slough, Palos area (CAl); 23 Mar, Fox R (McHenry Co) (DF); 23 Mar, Evanston (EW); 30 Mar (2), Spoon L (DJM). **MC**: 30, Montrose H, 5 Apr (GAW)—evidently a spring high count away from Chain-O-Lakes SP (Lake Co); 12, Rend L, 26 Mar (KM, CL); 3, Spoon L, 2 May (DJM); 3, Carl.C, 10 May (DMK). **LD**: **11 Jun**, Lks Riverbend (EC); 26 May, Chau (R&SBj); 15 May, Boone Co (AB, MAR); 10 May (3), Carl.C (DMK, KM).

Pied-billed Grebe

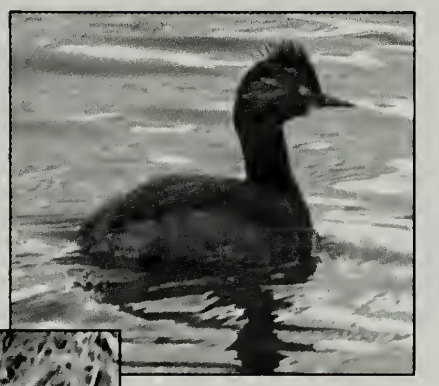
EA: 9 Mar, HL (FH); 14 Mar, Hennepin L (DFS); 15 Mar, Hidden L FP (Du Page Co) (ES); 21 Mar (2), Quincy Bay SFWA (Adams Co) (AD). **MC**: **123**, Hennepin L, 3 Apr (DFS, PCk); 53, L Springfield (Sangamon Co), 18 Mar (GAW); 35, Mermet L, 9 Apr (KM); 24, Riverdale Quarry, Riverdale (Cook Co), 5 Apr (WM); 22, Shabbona L SP (De Kalb Co), 20 Mar (DJS). **LD**: 17 May, Putnam Co (KM); 10 May, Middle Fork R Co FP (Champaign Co) (EC).

Horned Grebe

EA: **3 Feb** (4), Baldwin L (St. Clair & Randolph Cos) (KM); 8 Mar, Evanston (EW); 8 Mar, Blackhawk FP (Kane Co) (ES). **MC**: 20, HL, 23 Mar (FH); 19, Palos area and Orland Park (Cook Co), 23 Mar (WS); 6, Heyworth (McLean Co), 12 Apr (DTW). **LD**: **26 May**, Hennepin L (JEH); 6 May (2), Hennepin L (DFS, PCk); 3 May, Indian Rdg N, LCal (WM); 17 Apr, Crab Or. (KM); 3 Apr, Chau (R&SBj).

Red-necked Grebe

EA: 4 Mar (ad. molting into breeding plumage), Clin.L (TAM); 8 Mar, Ameren/CIPS L (Jasper Co) (MAH); 3 Apr, Montrose H (GAW). **LD**: **17 May** (ad.), Nelson L Marsh (Kane Co) (*MS, RR & NB et al.)—**latest May date for IL**; in addition to one older summer record (8 Jun 1967), the IORC files include an unreviewed photo of a bird that appears to be this species at JP in early Jun of the mid 1990s.



Eared Grebe

EA: 23 Mar, Saganashkee Slough, Palos area (Cook Co) (ES, R&KF, UG); 30 Mar, HL (FH). **MC**: 2, Nelson L Marsh (Kane Co), 25 Mar (RR & NB). **LD**: 6 May, Hennepin L (DFS, PCk); 30 Apr (present since 24 Mar), Linc.P (BH, EW:ph, GAW, m.ob.).

American White Pelican

EA: 1 Apr (10+), n. of Towanda (**McLean Co**) (MLR); 3 Apr (50), Nelson L Marsh (Kane Co) (ES); 6 Apr, Grundy Co (ES). **MC**: 1500, Carl.F, 2 Apr (KM); 1170, Putnam Co, 15 Apr (DFS); 500+ (in 3 groups), Palos area and Orland Park (Cook Co), 1 Apr (WS); 450-500, widewaters of Des Plaines R at Channahon (Will Co), 29 Mar (CAl); 400+, L Shelbyville (Moultrie Co), 24 Mar (TAM). **LD**: 7 Jun, Long L (Schuyler Co) (TAM); 17 May (11), Putnam Co (KM); 16 May (14), Quincy Bay SFWA (Adams Co) (AD); 3 May, Meredosia L (Morgan Co) (TAM).

[NEOTROPIC CORMORANT

EA: 19 May, Du Page Co—second earliest date reported for IL; twelve previously accepted records.]

Double-crested Cormorant

EA: 8 Mar (2), Rend L (KM); 14 Mar, Quincy Bay SFWA (Adams Co) (AD); 28 Mar, Evanston (EW); 29 Mar (6), airport at Rockfd (DTW). **MC**: **17,000**, Rend L, 7 Apr (KM)—**record IL high count by 5000 birds** (and unprecedented number for spring, in which season previous high counts are to 5000 birds); 2500, Hennepin L, 26 Apr (DFS); 1250, LCal, 10 May (WM); 1000+, Chau, 5 Apr (TAM); 800+ (one northbound flock), JP, 22 Apr (PC).

American Bittern

EA: 4 Apr, Oakwood Bottoms (Jackson Co) (KM, CT); 7 Apr, Urbana (EC); 21 Apr, GrtLakes (DRD). **MC**: 4, Orient Bottoms (Franklin Co), 15 Apr (LS); 3, Spunky Bottoms Marsh, Beardstown (Brown Co), 3 May (TAM); 2, Merrit's Prairie FP (De Kalb Co), 1 May (SDB); 2, Oakwood Bottoms (Jackson Co), 3 May (*DEM:ph.). **LD**: 28 May, JP (PC, SLC); 10 May, Burnham Prairie, Burnham (Cook Co) (TB, WM); 8 May, Urbana (EC); 26 Apr (2), Pulaski Co (KM, DMK, FB).

Least Bittern

EA: 17 Apr, Mermet L (KM); 27 Apr, Old Ben 27 mine pond (Franklin Co) (LS); 10 May, Middle Fork R Co FP (Champaign Co) (EC); 15 May, Goose L Prairie SNA (Grundy Co) (SDB); 17 May, Skokie Lagoons (Cook Co) (GAW). **MC**: 2, Mermet L, 27 Apr (DJM); 2, Old Ben 27 mine pond (Franklin Co), 6 May (LS)—one still present as of 11 Jun (LS); 2 ("may be pair"), Chau, 22 May (R&SBj)—one still present 26 May (R&SBj). **LD**: 6 Jun, JP (SLC).

Top: Eared Grebe. Lincoln Park North Pond, Chicago, Cook County. 29 April 2003. Photo by Eric Walters.

Middle: American Bittern, Oakwood Bottoms, Jackson County. 3 May 2003. Photo by Dan Miller.

Bottom: Snowy Egret. Horseshoe Lake, Madison County. 28 April 2003. Photo by Frank Holmes.

Great Blue Heron

EA: 8 Mar, Fabyan FP (Kane Co) (ES); 8 Mar (4), Bartel Grasslands (Cook Co) (EW); 14 Mar (2), Quincy Bay SFWA (Adams Co) (AD). **MC**: 150, Carl.C, 12 Apr & 27 Apr (DMK); 136, Chau, 6 Mar & 13 Mar (R&SBj); 96 (colony), Clear L (Mason Co), 27 Mar (R&SBj); 46, Bakers L, Palatine (Cook Co), 10 May (GAW).

Great Egret

EA: 14 Mar (21), St. Clair Co (KM); 23 Mar, Palos area (UG); 23 Mar (4), Indian Rdg N, LCal (WM); 3 Apr, Rockfd (DTW). **MC**: 137, Bakers L, Palatine (Cook Co), 10 May (GAW); 78, Indian Rdg N, LCal, 3 May (WM); 73, Johnson Co, 9 Apr (KM); 9, Chau, 26 May (R&SBj). **LD**: 14 May, Linc.P (GAW); 10 May (2), JP (PC et al.). **Remarks**: Lowest numbers in 42 years of monitoring at Chau / Clear L (Mason Co) (R&SBj).

Snowy Egret

EA: 1 Apr, Sauget Marsh (St. Clair Co) (KM); 1 May, near De Kalb (De Kalb Co) (SDB)—the only report outside s. IL. **MC**: 27, St. Clair Co, 4 May (FH).

Little Blue Heron

EA: 24 Mar, Sauget Marsh (St. Clair Co) (KM); 15 Apr, Linc.P (RDH, m.ob., fide EW); 16 Apr (ad.), JP (C&LH); 17 Apr (breeding plumage), Chau (R&SBj); 26 Apr (2 ad.), Indian Rdg N, LCal (WM). **MC**: 60, Alexander Co, 24 May (KM); 4 (2 pairs, ad.), Indian Rdg N, LCal, 23 May (WM, AK). **LD**: 8 May, Waterfall Glen FP (Du Page Co) (R&KF).

Tricolored Heron

EA: 18-21 May, Homer L (Champaign Co) (JE, TAM:ph., SDB, m.ob.).

Cattle Egret

EA: 26 Mar, St. Clair Co (KM). **MC**: 37, Alexander Co, 24 May (KM); 30, Carl.C, 17 May (DMK); 21, Frank Bellrose Refuge (Pulaski Co), 21 Apr (RSR, DK). **LD**: 6-10 May, Hennepin L (DFS).

Green Heron

EA: 4 Apr (4), Johnson Co (KM, CT); 5 Apr, St. Clair Co (TUM); 16 Apr, Linc.P (GAW); 18 Apr, Hidden L (Du Page Co) (ES); 26 Apr, Urbana (EC). **MC**: 16, LCal, 10 May (WM, MBr, TB); 10, Jackson Co, 8 May (VK, VL, RSR); 6, Jake Wolf Fish Hatchery (Mason Co), 8 May (R&SBj). **LD**: 27 May, Grant P (DFS); 20 May (7), JP (PC).

Black-crowned Night-Heron

EA: 20 Mar (ad.), JP (KC); 22 Mar (18), Indian Rdg N, LCal (WM); 23 Mar, Madison Co (FH); 30 Mar (2), HL (KM). **MC**: 641 (evening dispersal), Indian Rdg N, LCal, 10 May (WM, AK); 29, JP, 15 May (KC); 6, Fairmont City (St. Clair Co), 29 Apr (KM). **LD**: 10 May, Old Ben 25 mine subsidence (Franklin Co) (LS); 10 May, Champaign (Champaign Co) (EC); 6 May (ad.), Spoon L (DJM).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron

EA: **20 Mar**, Madison Co (FH)—second earliest IL arrival. **MC**: 10, Madison Co, 30 Apr (FH)—the only report greater than two. No reports outside s. IL.

White-faced Ibis

EA: **3-5 Apr**, Clear L (Mason Co) (R&SBj, *TAM:ph., et al.)—**record early arrival** (the previous earliest being 18 Apr 1995), except for a specimen of a male taken (but now lost) from a flock of three in northbound flight at "...a small lake in Illinois (Marion County), seven miles from East St. Louis" [*sic!*] on the anomalous date of 27 Feb 1880; this was published as a Glossy Ibis, but the collector's description of soft parts indicate White-faced Ibis ("Iris reddish; bill slate-color with a very slight reddish tint; legs slate with also a reddish tint on the upper parts; bare skin in front of the eye brownish red."); see Bohlen's 1989 *Birds of Illinois* for references.

Black Vulture

EA: 8 Mar, Mermet L (KM). **MC**: 21, Johnson Co, 4 Apr (KM, CT); 9, Jackson Co, 10 May (RSR, CAr, RM).

Turkey Vulture

EA: 1 Mar, Sannauk FP (De Kalb Co) (DJS); 8 Mar, Williamson Co (KM); 12 Mar, Lks Riverbend (EC); 14 Mar, Marshall Co (DFS, PCk); 15 Mar, Boone Co (AB, MAR). **MC**: 66 (roost), Saganashkee Slough, Palos area, 26 Mar, with similar numbers for two to three weeks (WS); 52, Fishhk, 24 Mar (TAM); 50, Urbana, 30 Apr (EC); 32, Marion Co, 31 Mar (KM). **LD**: 15 May, M.Arb (MBC); 3 May, Chi (SLC). **Remarks**: Marked increases in Palos area, including summer resident population of 20-25 individuals (compared to about 6 individuals ten years ago) (WS).

Osprey

EA: 27 Mar, JP (PC)—record early for site; 28 Mar, Bergman's Slough, Palos area (Cook Co) (WS); 3 Apr, w. La Salle Co (DFS); 4 Apr (2), Mermet L (KM); 13 Apr, e. Knox Co (DJM). **MC**: 4, Carl.C, **26 May** (DMK); 3, Mermet L, 17 Apr (KM). **LD**: 24 May, Wauk (GAW); 3 May, Homer L (Champaign Co) (EC); 2 May, Spoon L (DJM); 24 Apr, Ten Mile Creek SFWA (Jefferson Co) (RJ).

Mississippi Kite

EA: 2 May, Pomona (KM, CL). **MC**: **83** (65 at Thebes, 18 near Horseshoe L CA), Alexander Co, 24 May (SD, SDB); **52**, Thebes (Alexander Co), 9 May (SDB)—**unprecedented high counts**, doubling previous IL high count of 41 birds (Union Co, 21 May 1994); 11, sw. Union Co, 10 May (VK, MTB); 8, Jackson Co, 10 May (RSR, CAr, RM). **Other** (extralimital, undocumented): 17 May, **Palos area**. [Pending IORC Review: 9 May (ad. male & first-year), Moutrie Co. Some additional extralimital reports from the 10 May SBC are also under review.]

Bald Eagle

EA: 8 Mar (third-year), n. of Marietta (Fulton Co) (LLH); 9 Mar (4), Yorkville and Oswego (Kendall Co) (DJS); 23 Mar (3), Saganashkee Slough, Palos area (UG); 15 Apr, LCal (WM). **MC**: **245**, Mississippi R between Lock & Dam Numbers 13 and 14 (Whiteside & Rock Island Cos), 1 Mar (UG); 136 (77 ad., 56 imm., 3 others), Mississippi R (Adams Co), 7 Mar (AD); 41 (18 ad., 23 imm.), Chau, 13 Mar (R&SBj); 24, Hennepin L, 21 Mar (DFS); 16, sw. Union Co, 10 May (VK, MTB). **LD**: 18 May, LCal (JRS); 16 May (imm.) and 12 May (ad.), Mississippi R (Adams Co) (AD); 26 Apr (2), Jackson Co (RSR, VL, DM); 25 Apr (ad.), Palmer Lakes (Saline Co) (RJ). **Others**: 2, Levee area, Monroe Co, 3-5 May & 22-30 May (JPZ:video).

Northern Harrier

EA: 8 Mar (2 first-winter), Bartel Grasslands (Cook Co) (EW); 16 Mar (migrant male), McKinley Wds FP (Will Co) (UG). **MC**: 7, Pr.Rdg, 21 Mar (KM, CL); 4, Carl.C, 30 Mar (DMK); 4, Pyramid SP (Perry Co), 5 Apr (RSR, JM et al.). **LD**: 10 May, M.Arb (MBC); 30 Apr, Meredosia L (Morgan Co) (KM); 19 Apr (2), Carl.C (DMK); 5 Apr (4), Pyramid SP (Perry Co) (RSR, JM et al.).

Sharp-shinned Hawk

EA: 8 Mar, Batavia (Kane Co) (ES); 16 Mar, Kane Co (MBC); 16 Mar (2), Indian Rdg N, LCal (WM); 17 Mar, Jefferson Co (KM). **MC**: 3, w. Cook Co, 16 Mar (DFS). **LD**: 26 May, Rock Cut (DFS); 12 May, Grant P (DFS); 8 May, Chau (R&SBj); 23 Apr, Massac Co (KM).

Cooper's Hawk

EA: 6 Mar (imm. male), Bushnell (McDonough Co) (LLH). **MC**: 4, Carl.C, 13 Apr (DMK); 4, Clinton Co, 10 May (KM, RH); 3 ad., Palos area, 19 Apr (EW). **LD**: 24 Mar (ad. male), n. of Bushnell (McDonough Co) (LLH); 22 May, Grant P (DFS); 3 May (imm.), Levee Road (Monroe Co) (JPZ).

Northern Goshawk

LD: **9 May**, Waterfall Glen FP (Du Page Co) (*R&KF)—**second latest IL record**; **12 Apr**, Carl.B (DMK)—record late date for s. IL. No other reports.

Red-shouldered Hawk

EA: 9 Mar, Cook Co (MBC); 15 Mar, Afton FP (De Kalb Co) (DJS). **MC**: 7, Jackson Co, 10 May (RSR, CAr, RM); 4, Orient Bottoms (Franklin Co), 15 Apr (LS); 2 (1 ad., 1 imm.), Elsen's Hill (Du Page Co), 17 May (ES). **LD**: 3 May (imm.), Roy C. Blackwell FP (Du Page Co) (WS).

Broad-winged Hawk

EA: 10 Apr, Ft Massac (KM); 13 Apr, Saw Wee Kee P, Oswego (Kendall Co) (DFS); 15 Apr (ad.), Palos area (WS); 22 Apr, Champaign Co (EC). **MC**: 9, Massac Co, 26 Apr (KM, FB, DMK); 7, Palos area, 10 May (WS); 4, Carpenter P, Springfield (Sangamon Co), 30 Apr (DFS). **LD**: 22 May (ad.), Wilmette (Cook Co) (EW); 3 May, Big Marsh, LCal (WM); 26 Apr (ad.), Ramsey L SP (Fayette Co) (TAM).

Swainson's Hawk

Two reports from relict range: 1 May, Starks (Kane Co) (SDB); 16 May, Kane Co (KM).

Red-tailed Hawk

MC: 16, Carl.C, 22 Mar (DMK); 15, Kane Co, 16 May (KM); 13 (2 residents, 11 migrants), Lyman Wds FP (Du Page Co), 16 Mar (DFS); 4, Chau, 6 Mar & 13 Mar (R&SBj). **Others**: "**Krider's**": 8 Mar, St. Clair Co (KM); 5 Apr, Grassy L (Union Co) (KM). **Dark morph**: 23 Mar, UCCA (KM); 2 Apr, Clinton Co (KM). **Near-albino**: 23 Apr, Pulaski Co (KM).

Rough-legged Hawk

EA: 1 Mar, Ogle Co (UG); 13 Mar (imm.), Bartel Grasslands (Cook Co) (WS); 16 Mar (2), La Moine R (Hancock Co) (DJM).

Golden Eagle

EA: 24 Mar, Saganashkee Slough, Palos area (R&KF). **LD**: **19 Apr** (ad.), Ramsey L SP (Fayette Co) (RJ).

American Kestrel

EA: 8 Mar, Batavia (Kane Co) (ES); 24 Mar, Montrose H (GAW). **MC**: 14, n. and w. Winnebago Co, 29 Mar (DTW); 11, Iroquois Co, 5 Apr (DFS); 7, Union Co, 8 Mar (KM). **LD**: 21 May, JP (SLC); 28 Apr (migrating female), Evanston (EW).

Merlin

EA: 15 Mar, Wauk (AS); 23 Mar, Aurora (Kane Co) (DFS); 5 Apr, Wauk (DTW). **MC**: 3, Evanston, 16 Mar (EW). **LD**: 18 May, Busey Wds (EC); 17 Apr (female), Rock Cut (DTW); 3 May (imm. or female), Levee Road (Monroe Co) (JPZ). A few additional singles at Cook Co.

Peregrine Falcon

EA: 14 Mar, East St. Louis (Madison Co) (KM); 16 Mar (imm.), near Brandon Lock & Dam (Will Co) (AS); 16 Mar (ad.), Indian Rdg N, LCal (WM); 9 Apr, Rockfd (DTW); 15 Apr, Wheaton (Du Page Co) (ES). **MC**: 2, Carl.C, 3 May (DMK). **LD**: 17 May (ad.), LCal (WM); 15 May, se. Du Page Co (R&KF); 15 May, M.Arb (ES); 12 May, Anderson L (Fulton Co) (PW, VK et al.). No reports assigned to subspecies, and migrant status of records is unclear.

Yellow Rail

EA: 5 Apr, Knox College (DJM); 11 Apr, Clin L. (PWe); 13 Apr, Cypress Creek NWR (Pulaski Co) (*FB); 14 Apr (flushed from prairie during controlled burn), ChiBotGdn (JFS fide EW); 14 Apr, Pulaski Co (KM). No other reports.

King Rail

EA: 27 Apr, Mermet L (DJM); 8 May & 10 May ("'ticking' ad."), Deadstick Pond, LCal (WM)—also 13 May, same site (EW); 10 May, Carl.C (DMK); 17 May & 19 May, Goose L Prairie SNA (Grundy Co) (KM; CAl). **Other**: 29 May, Buttonbush Slough, Palos area (WS).

Virginia Rail
EA: **23 Mar** (2), Oakwood Bottoms (Jackson Co) (KM)—second earliest IL arrival; 12 Apr (2), Clin.L (DTW, IOS); 19 Apr, Hyde L Wetland, LCal (WM). **Others**: 1 May (2), Saline Co (KM); 3 May, Spunky Bottoms Marsh, Beardstown (Brown Co) (TAM); 10 May (2), nc. Knox Co (DJM); 17 May (2), Goose L Prairie SNA (Grundy Co) (KM).

Sora
EA: 4 Apr, Oakwood Bottoms (Jackson Co) (KM, CT); 5 Apr, Indian Rdg N, LCal (WM); 7 Apr, Old Ben 25 mine subsidence (Franklin Co) (LS); 12 Apr, Carl.C (DMK). **MC**: 7, LCal, 10 May (WM); 5, Pulaski Co, 14 Apr (KM). **LD**: 14 May, near Hoopeston (Vermilion Co) (SDB); 10 May, near Wolf L (Union Co) (SDB); 6 May, HL (FH); 3 May, Carl.C (DMK). A poor season.

Common Moorhen
EA: 24 Apr (responding to playback of its call), Stiritz mine pond (Williamson Co) (LS); 26 Apr, Indian Rdg N, LCal (WM); 17 May, Vermilion Co (EC); 22 May, Chau (R&SBj). **MC**: 3, LCal, 10 May (WM, AK). **Other**: 27 May, Mark Twain NWR (Calhoun Co) (DMK).

American Coot
EA: 12 Mar (13), JP (PC, KC); 15 Mar, Hidden L FP (Du Page Co) (UG). **MC**: **16,090**, Chau, 3 Apr (R&SBj); **11,050**, Hennepin L, 15 Apr (DFS, PCk)—**record spring high counts** excluding aerial surveys; 7200, HL, 26 Mar (KM); 1000, Carl.C, 15 Mar (DMK). **LD**: 13 May, JP (PC, SLC); 11 May (2), Carl.C (DMK).

Sandhill Crane
EA: 28 Feb (8), Sullivan (Moultrie Co) (TAM); 4 Mar (17), Clin.L (TAM); 8 Mar (560), LCal (WM); 14 Mar (16), Wheaton (Du Page Co) (ES); 16 Mar (13), Boone Co (AB, MAR). **MC**: **6350**, Indian Rdg N, LCal, 16 Mar (WM)—**record spring high count** and second-highest single-party high count overall; **3500+**, River Forest (Cook Co), 16 Mar (JA); 1325, Westchester (Cook Co), 23 Mar (DFS); 440+, Palos area, 27 Mar (WS); 27, Fishhk, 8 Mar (TAM). **LD**: **3 May**, Carl.C (DMK)—the only report from s. IL; 26 Apr, Powder Horn L FP, LCal (WM); 25 Apr (2), Du Page Co (MBC); 22 Apr, Champaign Co (EC). Well represented over the n. half of the state in March.

[Whooping Crane
LD: 13 Apr (11), Putnam Co.]

Black-bellied Plover
EA: 3 May (5), Carl.C (DMK); 10 May, Evanston (EW); 17 May, Lks Riverbend (EC). **MC**: 18, Wauk, 23 May (AS); 5, Carl.C, 3 May (DMK); 5, Hennepin L, 23 May (JEH). **LD**: 10 Jun, GrtLakes (DRD); 31 May (ad.), se. Massac Co (VK, MAH et al.); 27 May, MPrice L&D (DMK); 26 May (4), Hennepin L (JEH).

Willet. Horseshoe Lake, Madison County. 6 May 2003. Photo by Frank Holmes.

American Golden-Plover
EA: 23 Mar, Carl.C (DMK); 26 Mar, HL (FH); 29 Mar, airport quarry at Rockfd (DTW, AS); 29 Mar (43), Prairie Ridge SNA (Marion Co) (TAM); 30 Mar (5), Victoria (Knox Co) (DJM). **MC**: 2900, n. of Colfax (McLean Co), 10 May (MLR); 1000+, near Pr.Rdg, 19 Apr (MAH); 420, Mahomet (Champaign Co), 10 May (EC); 400, Carl.C, 6 Apr (DMK); 21, w. of Galva (Henry Co), 5 May (LLH). **LD**: 26 May, Hennepin L (JEH); 22 May (15), near Oakley (Macon Co) (TAM); 9 May (6), Effingham Co (MAH); 18 Apr (2), Johnson Co (KM); 18 Apr (80), Carl.C (DMK).

Snowy Plover
EA: 27-28 Apr (ad., breeding plumage), Meredosia L (Morgan Co) (BA, TAM:ph.). Three previously accepted records, plus one undocumented sighting, all from spring (28 Apr - 19 May).

Semipalmated Plover
EA: 18 Apr, Johnson Co (KM); 19 Apr (11), Carl.C (DMK); 29 Apr, JP (PC); 1 May, Spoon L (DJM); 3 May (3), airport quarry at Rockfd (DTW). **MC**: 17, Hennepin L, 23 May (JEH); 12, airport quarry at Rockfd, 19 May (DTW); 11, Carl.C, 19 Apr (DMK); 4, s. Ogle Co, 17 May (DFS). **LD**: 31 May, Linc.P (EW); 31 May, s. Ogle Co (DFS); 28 May, nc. Knox Co (DJM); 25 May (3), MPrice L&D (DMK).

Killdeer
EA: 7 Feb, St. Clair Co (KM); 4 Mar (12), Lks Riverbend (EC); 8 Mar, Fabyan FP (Kane Co) (ES); 14 Mar (2), Boone Co (AB, MAR). **MC**: 100, Carl.C, 15 Mar (DMK); 56, Kendall Co, 23 Mar (DFS); 26, Chau, 17 Apr & 26 May (R&SBj). **LD**: 11 May, JP (PC).

Black-necked Stilt
EA: **15 Apr** (2), Johnson Co (KM)—second earliest IL arrival date; **17 Apr** - 3 May, Spring L near Savanna (Carroll Co) (TH, m.ob., fide SDB)—second earliest for n. IL; 15 May (2), Chau (*R&SBj). **MC**: 5 (2 at East Cape Girardeau, 3 near Horseshoe L CA), Alexander Co, 24 May (SDB); 3, rice fields at East Cape Girardeau, 9 May (Alexander Co) (SDB); 2, Montgomery Co, 10 May (RJ). **LD**: 7 Jun (3), Carlson L (Fulton Co) (TAM); present to end of season in far s. IL (Massac and Johnson Cos).

American Avocet
EA/MC: 29 Apr (17), Montrose H (GAW). **LD**: 6 May (7), Grant P (TSS). The only reports.

Greater Yellowlegs
EA: **8 Mar** (2), Pulaski Co (KM); 16 Mar, Heyworth (McLean Co) (TEB); 29 Mar (9), Winnebago Co (DTW). **MC**: **500**, Carl.C, 19 Apr (DMK)—**record spring high count** (previously 261 on 12 Apr 1996); 56, Clear L (Mason Co), 17 Apr (R&SBj); 37, airport quarry at Rockfd, 3 May (DTW). **LD**: 16 May, Du Page Co (KM); 10 May (7), Carl.C (DMK).

Lesser Yellowlegs
EA: 22 Mar, Goose L Prairie SNA (Grundy Co) (DFS); 22 Mar (10), Carl.C (DMK); 24 Mar, ChiBotGdn (EW); 24 Mar (3), Bruce WMA (TAM). **MC**: **2000**, Carl.F, 3 May (DMK)—**record spring high count**; **1500**, Carl.F, 19 Apr (KM); 875, Clear L (Mason Co), 17 Apr (R&SBj); 265, Hennepin L, 6 May (DFS, PCk). **LD**: 28 May (2), nc. Knox Co (DJM); 25 May, MPrice L&D (DMK); 17 May, Putnam Co (KM).

Solitary Sandpiper
EA: 3 Apr, Little Swan L (Warren Co) (LLH); 5 Apr, Johnson Co (KM, FB, CT); 13 Apr, Wadsworth wetlands (Lake Co) (AS). **MC**: **107**, flooded lowland w. of Havana (Mason Co), 3 May (TAM)—**record spring high count**; 31, Mermet L, 18 Apr (KM); 23, near Pecatonica, 10 May (DTW); 22, Sugar Grove (Kane Co), 3 May (DFS). **LD**: 17 May, Putnam Co (KM); 9 May, Madison Co (FH); 2 May, Little Swan L (Warren Co) (LLH).

Willet
EA: 26 Apr, JP (KC); 30 Apr (3), Meredosia L (Morgan Co) (KM); 1 May, Knox Co (PR); 6 May, HL (FH). **MC**: 21, Wauk, 5 May (AS); 9, Little Swan L (Warren Co), 2 May (LLH); 8, sewage lagoons at Monmouth (Warren Co), 2 May (PR). **LD**: 12 May, HL (FH); 10 May (2), South Shore Cultural Center, Chi (SLC); 10 May (3), Wauk (AS); 6 May, Bruce WMA (TAM).

Spotted Sandpiper
EA: 19 Apr, McDowell Grove FP (Du Page Co) (ES); 19 Apr (2), Carl.F (DMK); 19 Apr (3), Mermet L (KM); 20 Apr, Evanston (EW); 21 Apr, Rock Cut (DTW); 23 Apr, L Storey (Knox Co) (DJM). **MC**: 47, Chau, 15 May (R&SBj); 15, LCal, 10 May (WM); 6, Carl.C, 10 May (DMK). **LD**: 3 Jun (3), Montrose H (GAW); 28 May (10), Evanston (EW).

Upland Sandpiper
EA: 26 Apr, s. of Aldrige (Union Co) (RSR, DJM et al.); 8 May (2), Champaign Co (EC); 19 May, near Cherry (Bureau Co) (JEH); 23 May (male), Charleston Airport (Coles Co) (SD, SDB). No other reports.

Whimbrel
EA/MC: 16 May (**17**), IBSP (KM). **Others**: 2 on 25 May reported from MPrice L&D were "...almost certainly in Missouri during our observation (per GPS calculations by Randy Korotev)." (WR).

Hudsonian Godwit
Two reports. **EA**: 9 May (female, breeding plumage), Fishhk (TAM). **LD**: 12 May, ne. Brown Co (HDB, PW, VK et al.).

Marbled Godwit
EA/MC: 5 May (**21**), Wauk (AS, DD)—second highest spring tally. **LD**: **16 Jun**, Grass L (Lake Co) (DRD). One other report: 10 May, Hennepin L (DFS).

Ruddy Turnstone
EA: 10 May (4), Wauk (AS); 10 May (2), Hennepin L (DFS); 12 May, rural site near Ottawa (La Salle Co) (JEH); 17 May (3), Lks Riverbend (EC). **MC**: 7, Rainbow Beach, Chi, 17 May (WS); 7, Wauk, 23 May (AS); 4, Hennepin L, 23 May (JEH). **LD**: 4 Jun, GrtLakes (DRD); 24 May, Carl.C (DMK).

Sanderling
EA: **22 Apr** (ad. non-breeding), Waukegan beach (Lake Co) (*JCB et al.)—ties for third earliest IL arrival date; 10 May (14), JP (PC, SLC); 12 May (2 in molt), Clin.L (TAM)—the only inland report. **MC**: 27, IBSP, 31 May (AS). **LD**: 7 Jun (4), IBSP (AS); 6 Jun (3), JP (KC).

Semipalmated Sandpiper

EA: 1 May, Madison Co (FH); 3 May, Carl.F (KM); 7 May, w. Knox Co (DJM). **MC**: 200, MPrice L&D, 25 May (DMK); 125, Hennepin L, 23 May (JEH); 32, Chau, 26 May (R&SBj). **LD**: 8 Jun (6), JP (KC); 7 Jun (20), Carlson L (Fulton Co) (TAM); 31 May (75), se. Massac Co (VK et al.); 27 May (50), MPrice L&D (DMK). Poor numbers at most sites.

Western Sandpiper

EA: **19 Apr**, Carl.F (KM, DMK)—second earliest IL arrival; the only report.

Least Sandpiper

EA: **24 Mar** (2), Bruce WMA (TAM); 30 Mar (2), Carl.C (DMK); 11 Apr, Boone Co (AB, MAR). **MC**: 25, Frank Bellrose Refuge (Pulaski Co), 21 Apr (RSR, DK); 18, Clinton Co, 10 May (KM, RH); 12+, w. Knox Co, 7 May (DJM); 11, Little Swan L (Warren Co), 2 May (LLH). **LD**: 4 Jun, GrtLakes (DRD); 26 May, LCal (EW); 19 May, Madison Co (FH).

White-rumped Sandpiper

EA: 28 Apr (4), Meredosia L (Morgan Co) (TAM); 3 May (15), Carl.F (DMK); 4 May (3), Spring L (Carroll Co) (DTW). **MC**: 15, Carl.F, 3 May (DMK); 14, ne. Brown Co, 12 May (HDB, PW, VK et al.). **LD**: 7 Jun (11), Carlson L (Fulton Co) (TAM); 31 May, IBSP (AS); 28 May (10+), nc. Knox Co (DJM); 25 May (10), MPrice L&D (DMK).

Baird's Sandpiper

EA: 11 Apr (4), Fishhk (TAM); 19 Apr (**15**), Carl.F (DMK). **MC**: **15**, as above—ties for second highest spring count. **LD**: **10 Jun**, GrtLakes (DRD)—second latest on record; 15 May, Middlefork Savanna FP (Lake Co) (JSg); 3 May (5), Carl.F (KM); 30 Apr, Meredosia L (Morgan Co) (KM). The few other reports were from the above-mentioned sites. **Remark**: Documentation is encouraged for June sightings.

Pectoral Sandpiper

EA: **8 Mar** (15), Bruce WMA (TAM); 10 Mar (7), Eldon Hazlet SP (Clinton Co) (MAH); 29 Mar, Loves P (Winnebago Co) (DTW); widespread by early April. **MC**: **4000**, Carl.F, 3 May (KM, DMK); **3000**, Stephen Forbes SP (Marion Co), 30 Mar (DMK); 2000+, near Pr.Rdg, 19 Apr (MAH); 460, Clear L (Mason Co), 10 Apr (R&SBj); 200, I & M Canal (La Salle Co), 27 Apr (DJS). **LD**: 28 May (5), Evanston (EW); 10 May (8), Carl.C (DMK); 7 May (3), w. Knox Co (DJM). Well reported statewide.

Dunlin

EA: 30 Mar - 3 Apr, Carl.C (DMK:ph.; TAM); 4 Apr, Johnson Co (KM, CT); 3 May, JP (KC); 4 May (14), Spring L (Carroll Co) (DTW); 10 May (2), near Victoria (Knox Co) (DJM). **MC**: 280, Chau, 26 May— "record number since we began our censuses in 1996-97" (R&SBj); 250, Hennepin L, 23 May (JEH); 60, se. Massac Co, 31 May (VK et al.); 50, Carl.F, 19 Apr (DMK, KM) & 3 May (DMK); 59, IBSP, 31 May (AS). **LD**: 8 Jun, Winthrop H (AS); 31 May (60), se. Massac Co (VK et al.). Well-reported statewide.

Stilt Sandpiper

EA: **30 Mar**, Carl.B (DMK:ph.)—**earliest IL record by 3 days**; 27 Apr, I & M Canal (La Salle Co) (DJS); 6 May, Fishhk (TAM); 12 May, rural site near Ottawa (La Salle Co) (JEH). **MC**: 3, Carl.F, 21 Apr (DMK). **LD**: 9 May, Bruce WMA (TAM); 3 May (2), Carl.F (KM).

Short-billed Dowitcher

EA: 3 May (25), Carl.F (DMK); 9 May (8), Bruce WMA (TAM); 10 May (2), nc. Knox Co (DJM). **MC**: 26, Spring L (Carroll Co), 6 May (JC); 25, Carl.F, 3 May (DMK); 6, nc. Knox Co, 13 May (DJM). **Others** (undocumented); **21 Apr** (4), Frank Bellrose Refuge (Pulaski Co); the status of this species prior to the last few days of April remains unclear due to lack of documentation. No departure data.

Long-billed Dowitcher

EA: **2 Apr** (5), Miller Meadow, Maywood (Cook Co) (JA)—record early for n. IL by one day; 13 Apr (3), Carl.C (DMK); 17 Apr (11), Johnson Co (KM). **MC**: 25, Carl.F, 27 Apr (DMK). **LD**: 9 May (2), Bruce WMA (TAM); 3 May (20), Carl.F (KM). No reports from other sites.

Wilson's Snipe

EA: 20 Mar, Montrose H (GAW); 20 Mar, Victoria (Knox Co) (DJM); 23 Mar (3), Grassy L (Union Co) (KM); 26 Mar, Springbrook Prairie FP (Du Page Co) (MBC, UG). **MC**: 52, Middlefork Savanna FP (Lake Co), 13 Apr (AS); 45, Miller Meadow, Maywood (Cook Co), 4 Apr (JA); 28, Pyramid SP (Perry Co), 5 Apr (RSR, JM et al.); 25, Clin.L, 25 Mar (TAM); 22, Carl.L, 2 Apr (KM); 10, Little Swan L (Warren Co), 3 Apr (LLH). **LD**: 7 May, Turtlehead L, Palos area (WS); 30 Apr (3), Meredosia L (Morgan Co) (KM); 13 Apr (10), Carl.F (DMK).

American Woodcock

EA: 22 Feb (5), Johnson Co (KM, FB, DMK); 14 Mar (4), Decatur (TAM); 15 Mar, Boone Co (AB, MAR). **MC**: 11, IBSP, 5 Apr (DTW); 10 (displaying), Greene Valley FP (Du Page Co), 26 Mar (UG); 7, Johnson Co, 14 Apr (KM); 6+ (displaying), Clin.L, 25 Mar (TAM). **LD**: 20 May, Grant P (DFS); 12 Mar, Carl.C (DMK).

Wilson's Phalarope

EA: 13 Apr (4), Mendota (La Salle Co), and (2), La Moille (Bureau Co) (DJS); 19 Apr (2), Carl.F (DMK, KM); 8 May (2), Chau (R&SBj). **MC**: 6, La Salle and Bureau Cos, as above; counts of 2 from scattered sites statewide. **LD**: **7 Jun** (male), Carlson L (Fulton Co) (TAM); 27 May, MPrice L&D (DMK); 13 May (2 males), nc. Knox Co (DJM).

Red-necked Phalarope

EA: 24 May (pair), Goose L Prairie SNA (Grundy Co) (*BHT). **LD**: 25-27 May, MPrice L&D (DMK). One additional report, without date, from Spring L near Savanna (Carroll Co) (TH, m.ob., fide SDB).

Laughing Gull

EA: 1 May (ad.), Crab Or. (KM); 10 May, Rend L (Franklin Co) (LS); 11 May, Carl.C (DMK). **MC**: **4** (3 ad., 1 imm.), Carl.L, 10 May (KM, RH). **LD**: 19 May - 3 Jun (ad. on scattered dates), Montrose H (GAW, m.ob.); 21-25 May, MPrice L&D (FH, DMK)—possibly assignable, at least in part, to Missouri rather than IL. Season total of about eight individuals.

Franklin's Gull

EA: 1 May (ad.), near Spoon L (DJM); 5 May (ad.), Wauk (AS); 10 May (imm.), Carl.L (KM, RH); 12 May (3), Clin.L (TAM). **MC**: 3 (2 ad., 1 first-summer), Clin.L, 12 May (TAM); 3 (1 ad., 2 imm.), Carl.L, 13 May (KM). **LD**: 30 May (ad.), Evanston (EW); 25-27 May, MPrice L&D (DMK). Sightings of lone adults along the L Michigan shoreline from Wauk to JP, 5-15 May, possibly involved a single individual.

Bonaparte's Gull

EA: 8 Mar (2 ad.), Bruce WMA (TAM); 16 Mar, HL (FH); 22 Mar (12), Danada FP (Du Page Co) (J&JZ fide ES). **MC**: 1000, Rend L, 17 Mar (KM); 790+, Evanston, 24 Apr (EW); 500, Carl.C, 6 Apr (DMK); 48, Clear L (Mason Co), 3 Apr (R&SBj). **LD**: 30 May (5 first-summer), Evanston (EW); 13 May, Carl.L (KM).

Ring-billed Gull

MC: **50,000**, Carl.L, 2 Mar (KM); **30,000**, Carl.C, 8 Mar (DMK); 833, Chau, 13 Mar (R&SBj); 820, Evanston, 10 May (EW); 750, Grant P, 21 May (DFS).

Herring Gull

MC: **1800**, Carl.L, 2 Mar (KM); 570, LCal, 26 Mar (DFS); 200+, Evanston, 4 May (EW); 13, Chau, 13 Mar (R&SBj). **LD**: 9 May, airport quarry at Rockfd (DTW); 30 Apr, Meredosia L (Morgan Co) (KM); 12 Apr (3), Carl.C (DMK).

Thayer's Gull

EA: 13 Mar (first-winter), Starved Rock SP (La Salle Co) (MLR); 29 Mar (ad.), Evanston (EW). **MC/LD**: 2, Winthrop H, 26 Apr & 3 May (AS).

Iceland Gull

EA: 15 Mar (second-year), Winthrop H (AS). **LD**: 3 May, Winthrop H (AS).

Lesser Black-backed Gull

EA: 8 Mar (ad.), Rend L (KM); 15 Mar (ad.), Winthrop H (AS); 29-30 Mar, Carl.C (DMK); 6 Apr (second-year), Montrose H (GAW). **LD**: 17-18 May, Carl.C (DMK); 15-18 May (first-year), Montrose H (RDH, AS et al.). About three additional individuals in first third of May along L Michigan.

Glaucous Gull

EA: 29 Mar (first-spring), Evanston (EW:ph.); 23 Mar (ad.), Evanston (EW). **LD**: 3 May (ad.), Winthrop H (AS); 26 Apr (second-year), Winthrop H (AS). No other reports.

Great Black-backed Gull

EA: 3 Mar (ad.), JP (PD). **LD**: 5 Apr (1st winter), Winthrop H (DTW, AS).

Caspian Tern

EA: 8 Apr, JP (fide KC); 10 Apr, Evanston (EW); 12 Apr, Carl.F (DMK); 30 Apr (2), Meredosia L (Morgan Co) (KM); 11 May, airport quarry at Rockfd (DTW). **MC**: **345**, JP, 3 May (KC); **256**, Evanston, 10 May (EW); 23, Carl.C, 18 May (DMK); 5, Chau, 15 May (R&SBj). **LD**: 3 Jun (3), Montrose H (GAW); 31 May (4), se. Massac Co (VK et al.); 27 May, HL (FH); 23 May (5), Hennepin L (JEH); 17 May (2), Putnam Co (KM).

Common Tern

EA: **22 Apr** (ad. breeding), GrtLakes (*JCB et al.)—evidently the earliest documented date for IL; 29 Apr (2), Evanston (EW); 5 May (4), Mississippi R (Adams Co) (AD); 11 May (4), Carl.C (DMK). **MC**: **1000**, Wauk, 15 May (KM); 665, Evanston, 10 May (EW); 375, GrtLakes, 21 May (DRD); 30, HL, 25 May (DMK). **LD**: 27 May, MPrice L&D (DMK); 19 May (2), Montrose H (GAW).

Forster's Tern

EA: 11 Apr, Evanston (EW); 13 Apr (3), Clin.L (EC); 14 Apr (2), Union Co (KM); 16 Apr, Rock Cut (DTW). **MC**: 55, Evanston, 10 May (EW); 33, Carl.L, 10 May (KM, RH); 4, Chau, 22 May (R&SBj). **LD**: 7 Jun (ad.), Long L (Schuyler Co) (TAM); 25 May (5), HL (DMK); 23 May, Hennepin L (JEH); 23 May (2), Indian Rdg N, LCal (WM); 17 May (6), Lks Riverbend (EC).

Least Tern
MC: **80**, inland se. Massac Co, 31 May (VK et al.)—record IL high count away from breeding colonies. Only one additional report, of a single on 18 May at Wilmette (Cook Co), where species merits documentation.

Black Tern
EA: 9 May (9), Rock Cut (DTW); 10 May, Bakers L, Palatine (Cook Co) (GAW); 10 May (32), Carl.C (DMK). **MC**: 65, Carl.L, 13 May (KM); 30+, Cook Co lakefront, 11 May (WS); 24, Hennepin L, 15 May (DFS); 18, Mississippi R (Adams Co), 15 May (AD); 7, Chau, 15 May (R&SBj). **LD**: 31 May (4), se. Massac Co (VK, MAH et al.); 17 May, Putnam Co (KM).

Rock Pigeon
MC: 215, s. Cook Co, 5 Apr (DFS); 20, Carl.C, 26 May (DMK)—the only counts reported.

Eurasian Collared-Dove
MC: 20, Alma (Marion Co), 8 Mar (DMK); 15, Carl.C, 25 May (DMK); 7, Metropolis (Massac Co), 17 Apr (KM); 7, Berwyn (Cook Co), 31 May (WS); 4, Montgomery Co, 10 May (RJ); 2, Paradise L (Coles Co), 17 Apr (RJ). Locally well established in the s. half of IL. Evidently new sites in c. IL (Mason Co) include 2 at Forest City and 1 at Bishop, 5 Apr (TAM). Sightings from the n. half remain problematic due to confusion with very similar Ringed Turtle-Dove (of avicultural origins), including hybrids with that form, and weak documentation.

[White-Winged Dove
13 May, Cook Co—six previously accepted records, with records every year since the first in 1998.]

Mourning Dove
EA: 15 Mar (7), JP (KC); 2 Apr, Grant P (DFS). **MC**: **156** ("flocks heading south over 1.5 hours"), Evanston, 20 Apr (EW); 73, St. Clair Co, 28 Feb (KM); 57, Kendall Co, 13 Apr (DFS); 50, Carl.C, 15 Mar (DMK); 19, Bushnell (McDonough Co), 3 Mar (LLH). **LD**: 8 May (2), Grant P (DFS).

Monk Parakeet
MC: 125 (plus 28 huge nests), Burnham (Cook Co), 15 Mar (WM); 17, Addison (Du Page Co), 29 Mar (UG); 2, Carl.C, 12 Apr (DMK). Increasingly widespread in greater Chicago area, and now ubiquitous in s. Cook Co. Records from elsewhere are technically best treated as involving unestablished escapes.

Black-billed Cuckoo
EA: 9 May (2), Fall Creek Rest Area (Adams Co) (AD); 9 May, 18 Bottoms (Franklin Co) (LS); 17 May, Elsen's Hill (Du Page Co) (ES); 24 May, Linc.P (EW). **LD**: 11 Jun, Linc.P (GAW); 26 May, Carl.F (DMK); 23 May (window kill, with prominent brood patch), Normal (McLean Co) (MF). No counts greater than 2 submitted. See next.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo
EA: 1 May, Montrose H (WS); 1 May (4), Ferne Clyffe SP (Johnson Co) (KM); 2 May, St. Clair Co (TUM); 7 May, Knox College (DJM). **MC**: **74**, sw. Union Co, 10 May (VK, MTB)—**second highest spring tally on record**; **65** (large nocturnal migration), near Jonesboro (Union Co), 10 May (SDB)—**third highest spring tally on record**; **45**, Jackson Co, 8 May (VK, VL, RSR); **25**, Clinton Co, 10 May (KM, RH); 10, Adams Co, 26 May (AD). **LD**: 11 Jun, Linc.P (GAW). As both cuckoo species have shown massive declines in recent years, this spring's high counts for Yellow-billed Cuckoo likely reflect a coincidence of skilled observers and large flights (particularly on the SBC of 10 May) rather than any real recovery. Singles only reported from n. IL.

Barn Owl
One report: 31 Mar ("at usual nest"), Union Co (KM).

Eastern Screech-Owl
MC: 6, Miller Meadow, Maywood (Cook Co), 2 Mar (JA, WM); 2, Carl.C, 10 May (DMK); 2, Thompsonville (Franklin Co), 10 May (LS). **LD**: 8 Apr (migrant, red morph), M.Arb (MBC). **Others**: 9 Mar (found dead, red morph), HL (FH); 10 May, Highland Park (Lake Co) (DRD).

Great Horned Owl
MC: 3, McDowell Grove FP (Du Page Co), 19 Apr (ES); 2, Carl.C, 12 Apr & 10 May (DMK). Numbers in s. IL hit hard by West Nile Virus (KM). A few additional reports of singles and nests.

Burrowing Owl
EA: **17 Mar**, far e. Champaign Co, near Allerton (Vermilion Co) (RJ, SDB:ph, JOS:ph.)—**record early spring date**; 15 previous IL reports (most remain unreviewed by IORC), the last in 1989.

Barred Owl
MC: 13, Jackson Co, 10 May (RSR, CAr, RM); 9, Carl.C, 10 May (DMK); 3, Granville Township (Putnam Co), 13 Apr (UG); 2, Waterfall Glen FP (Du Page Co), 22 Apr (UG). **Others**: 20 Mar, Knox College (DJM); 20 Mar, Chau (R&SBj); 11 May (heard), Plum Creek FP (s. Cook Co) (WS).

Long-eared Owl
EA: 29 Mar, JP (PD). **MC**: 6, Bartel Grasslands (Cook Co), all Mar (WS). **LD**: 16 Apr, IIT campus, Chi (GAW); 15 Apr, JP (WS). No reports from other sites.

Short-eared Owl
EA: 15 Mar, Glacial P (McHenry Co) (DF); 30 Mar - 6 Apr, n. of Towanda (McLean Co) (MLR); 1 Apr, Evanston (EW:video). **LD**: 26 Apr, Wauk (AS); 14 Apr, Linc.P (EW:video, m.ob); 12 Apr, Towanda (McLean Co) (DTW, TAM); 5 Apr (2), IBSP (AS, DTW); 22 Feb (2), Johnson Co (KM, DMK, FB).

Northern Saw-whet Owl
LD: 20 Mar, Montrose H (BH, GAW).

Common Nighthawk
EA: 28 Apr, Madison Co (FH); 30 Apr, Knox Co (JT fide DJM); 30 Apr, Decatur (TAM); 9 May, JP (SLC). **MC**: **158**, Pomona, 29 Apr (RSR)—**record spring high count**; 20+, Palos area, 29 May (WS). **LD**: 30 May (6 northbound migrants), Hyde Park, Chi (SLC); 30 May (2 northbound migrants), Evanston (EW); 29 May, Woodridge (Du Page Co) (MBC). Few reports other than SBC data.

Chuck-will's-widow
EA: 18 Apr, Ferne Clyffe SP (Johnson Co) (KM); 10 May, Urbana (EC)—the only datum outside s. IL. **MC**: **27** (calling males), Ferne Clyffe SP (Johnson Co), 8 May (SDB)—**record IL high count**.

Whip-poor-will
EA: 14 Apr (male), Hyde Park, Chi (SLC); 14 Apr (3), Washington Co CA (Washington Co) (KM). **MC**: 8, Washington Co CA (Washington Co), 14 Apr (KM); 8, Old Ben 25-27 mine complex (Franklin Co), 27 Apr (LS); 4, e. Knox Co, 10 May (DJM). **LD**: 11 May, JP (AW, BH et al.). Very few reports statewide. "First time I've missed them, despite trying a number of times in past breeding areas...." (EW).

[BLACK SWIFT
31 May, Du Page Co—no previously accepted IL records.]

Chimney Swift
EA: 31 Mar, Johnson Co (KM); 19 Apr, Rogers P, Chi (TSS); 19 Apr (4), Galesburg (Knox Co) (DJM); 20 Apr, Wheaton (Du Page Co) (ES). **MC**: 500, Johnson Co, 14 Apr (KM); 70, Carl.C, 10 May (DMK); 50, Evanston, 10 May (EW).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird
EA: 18 Apr (female), Spitler Wds SNA (Macon Co) (TAM); 18 Apr, Pomona (KM); 2 May, Rockfd (DTW); 3 May (2), Boone Co (AB, MAR); 4 May, M.Arb (ES). **MC**: 12, Jackson Co, 10 May (RSR, CAr, RM); 6, Palos area, 25 May (WS). **LD**: 27 May (female), JP (KC, SLC). Rather poorly reported.

Rufous Hummingbird
EA: **20-22 Apr** (ad. male at feeder), rural Lee Co (A&PY:ph., *JEH)—**first Lee Co record**; **first spring record for IL**. Ten previously accepted IL records, all from fall and winter (Sep - Jan).

Belted Kingfisher
EA: 4 Mar, Chau (R&SBj); 14 Mar, Hidden L FP (Du Page Co) (ES); 19 Mar (first-year male), JP (KC). **MC**: 4, Kendall Co, 13 Apr (DFS); 3, Mermet L, 6 Apr (KM, CT, FB). **LD**: 19 May, Rosehill Cemetery (Cook Co) (DFS); 19 May, Evanston (EW); 18 May, JP (PC).

Red-headed Woodpecker
EA: **2 Apr**, e. Stephenson Co (DTW)—remarkably early if migrant; 20 Apr, Chinquapin Psv (MF); 21 Apr, Adams Co (AD); 25 Apr, Montrose H (GAW). **MC**: 27, Champaign Co, 10 May (EC); 13, Kankakee Co, 27 Apr (DFS); 13, Levee Road (Monroe Co), 3 May (JPZ). **LD**: 6 Jun (2), JP (KC); 2 Jun, IIT campus, Chi (GAW). Increased numbers in Champaign Co (EC).

Red-bellied Woodpecker
EA: 28 Apr, Linc.P (EW, m.ob); 6 May (male), JP (PC, SLC). **MC**: 26, Bureau Co, 10 May (DFS); 22, Palos area, 10 May (WS); 17, Marshall Co, 26 Apr (DFS); 14, Ft Massac, 31 Mar (KM); 10, Carl.C, 22-23 Mar (DMK). **LD**: 23 May, JP (KC).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
EA: 23 Mar, Urbana (EC); 23 Mar (2), Union Co (KM); 25 Mar, Boone Co (AB, MAR); 25 Mar (male), JP (KC). **MC**: **115+**, IBSP and Wauk, 5 Apr (DTW)— "we certainly undercounted—probably 140-150 with more than 100 at IL Beach" (DTW)— **easy record Illlinois high count**, with previous maxima to 36 birds; 14, JP, 10 Apr (PC, KC); 4, Ft Massac, 31 Mar (KM). **LD**: 23 May, Sun-Times/Wrigley Building courtyard, downtown Chi (WS); 22 May, Grant P (DFS); 20 May, IIT campus, Chi (GAW); 15 May, near Mattoon (Coles Co) (LBH)—"latest county departure record by 4 days" (LBH); 14 May, Ewing P, Bloomington (McLean Co) (TEB); 15 Apr, Heron Pond (KM).

Downy Woodpecker
MC: 30, Salt Crk, 16 Mar (DFS); 21, Hennepin L, 3 Apr (DFS); 19, LCal, 18 Apr (DFS); 10, Ft Massac, 31 Mar (KM); 10, Carl.C, 13 Apr (DMK).

Hairy Woodpecker
MC: 6, Salt Crk, 4 May (DFS); 4, Ft Massac, 9 Apr (KM); 3, Carl.C, 21 Apr (DMK). **LD**: 3 Jun ("late migrant"), Linc.P (GAW).

Northern Flicker
EA: 19 Mar, Linc.P (GAW); 21 Mar (female), JP (KC); 29 Mar (11), Adams Co (AD). **MC**: 63, LCal, 18 Apr (DFS); 34, Ford Co, 5 Apr (DFS); 33, JP, 10 Apr (KC); 32, Hennepin L, 3 Apr (DFS); 17, Jackson Co, 23 Mar (KM). **LD**: 1 Jun ("latest migrant observed"), Graceland Cemetery, Chi (GAW); 20 May, Grant P (DFS).

Pileated Woodpecker
MC: 12, Union Co, 10 May (SDB); 9, Jackson Co, 10 May (RSR, CAr, RM); 3, Hennepin L, 3 Apr (DFS); 3, Pecatonica, 10 May (DTW). **Others** (extralimital): 15 Apr, **Waterfall Glen FP (Du Page Co)** (R&KF); 25-26 May, **Swallow Cliffs FP, Palos area** (WS, AW, m.ob.).

Olive-sided Flycatcher
EA: 10 May, Linc.P (BH); 10 May, Ewing P, Bloomington (McLean Co) (MLR); 10 May, Urbana (EC); 10 May, Decatur (TAM). **MC**: 3, M.Arb, 26 May (WM, JA). **LD**: 7 Jun, Winthrop H (JRS et al.); 5 Jun, JP (KC); 5 Jun, Middle Fork SFWA (Vermilion Co) (SDB); 4 Jun, near Streator (Livingston Co) (SDB); 26 May, Carl.C (DMK)—the only datum from s. IL.

Eastern Wood-Pewee
EA: 1 May (6), Ft Massac (KM); 3 May (2), Carl.C (DMK); 6 May, JP (PC, WS); 10 May (2), Knox College (DJM). **MC**: 16, Lee Co, 17 May (DFS); 14, JP, 19 May (PC); 12, Jackson Co, 10 May (RSR, CAr, RM). **LD**: 16 Jun (3), Grant P (DFS); 6 Jun (3), Linc.P (EW).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
EA: **5 May**, Adams Co (AD); 10 May, Urbana (EC); 11 May, Skokie Lagoons (Cook Co) (GAW). **MC**: 5, Grant P, 2 Jun (DFS); 3, Carl.C, 26 May (DMK); 2, Adams Co, 9 May (AD). **LD**: 13 Jun, IIT campus, Chi (GAW); 11 Jun (3), Grant P (DFS); 4 Jun, near Streator (Livingston Co) (SDB); 26 May (3), Carl.C (DMK).

Acadian Flycatcher
EA: 26 Apr (3), Ft Massac (KM, DMK, FB); 2 May, Humiston Wds (DFS); 7 May, Knox College (DJM); 14 May, Palos area (EW). **MC**: 14, Jackson Co, 10 May (RSR, CAr, RM); 6, Massac Co, 1 May (KM); 3, Montgomery Co, 10 May (RJ). **LD**: **11 Jun** (2), Grant P (DFS); 4 Jun, Linc.P (GAW); 1 Jun (2), IBSP (AS).

"Traill's Flycatcher"
MC: 16, Grant P, 28 May (DFS). **LD**: 10 Jun, Grant P (DFS).

Alder Flycatcher
EA: 10 May, Decatur (TAM); 13 May, Rosehill Cemetery (Cook Co) (DFS); 15 May, East St. Louis (Madison Co) (DMK). **MC**: 10, Carl.C, 17 May; 4, Rock Cut, 26 May (DFS); 3, Montrose H, 28 May & 3 Jun (GAW); 3, Vermilion Co, 5 Jun (SDB). **LD**: 12 Jun, Swallow Cliffs FP, Palos area (DFS); 8 Jun, Danville (Vermilion Co) (GAW); 26 May (6), Carl.C (DMK).

Willow Flycatcher
EA: 10 May, statewide (m.ob.). **MC**: 5, JP, 28 May (PC, SLC); 4, Montrose H, 28 May (GAW). **LD**: 11 Jun (2), Grant P (DFS). Poorly reported.

Least Flycatcher
EA: 26 Apr, Rend L (Franklin Co) (LS); 26 Apr, Ft Massac (KM, DMK, FB); 28 Apr, Montrose H (GAW); 1 May, Spoon L (DJM). **MC**: 38 (25 at Rosehill Cemetery, 13 at Grant P), Chi, 19 May (DFS); 19+, JP, 19 May (PC); 12, Linc.P, 19 May (EW); 3, s. Clinton Co, 13 May (KM). **LD**: **13 Jun**, IBSP (DRD); 2 Jun, various sites, Chi (KC, GAW, DFS); 18 May, Carl.C (DMK); 18 May, Decatur (TAM); 17 May, Pomona (RSR). Poorly reported.

Eastern Phoebe
EA: 15 Mar, Isle a la Cache, Romeoville (Will Co) (CAl); 15 Mar, Busey Wds (EC); 16 Mar (2), Salt Crk (DFS); 16 Mar, JP (KC); 16 Mar, Henderson Co (DJM); 17 Mar, St. Clair Co (TUM). **MC**: 23, JP, 2 Apr (KC, PC); 21, Grant P, 2 Apr (DFS); 15, Winnebago Co, 29 Mar (DTW); 8, Massac Co, 1 May (KM). **LD**: **18 May**, JP (KC).

Great Crested Flycatcher
EA: 18 Apr (2), Union Co (KM); 1 May, Knox Co (DJM); 6 May, Montrose H (BH); 6 May, JP (DC). **MC**: **46**, sw. Union Co, 10 May (VK, MTB); 14, Massac Co, 1 May (KM); 5, JP, 10 May (PC). **LD**: **18 Jun** (3), Linc.P (GAW); 11 Jun (2 males), Evanston (EW); 1 Jun, Rainbow Beach, Chi (DFS).

Western Kingbird
EA: 1 May, Madison Co (FH). **MC**: 5, Granite City (Madison Co), 29 May (FH); 3, East St. Louis (Madison Co), 25 May (DMK). Reports confined to Madison Co (Granite City and East St. Louis).

Eastern Kingbird
EA: 13 Apr, Mermet L (TEB); 19 Apr (2), Carl.C (DMK); 30 Apr, Champaign Co (EC); 1 May, Gamber Cove (e. Knox Co) (DJM); 3 May, Boone Co (AB, MAR); 7 May, M.Arb (ES). **MC**: 45, Carl.C, 10 May (DMK); 39, sw. Union Co, 10 May (VK, MTB); 34, JP, 19 May (PC).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
Evidently three individuals. **EA**: 7-8 May & 11 May (male), sw. Jackson Co (VK et al.); 10 May (pair), nw. Union Co (DFr fide VK).

Loggerhead Shrike
EA: 23 Mar, JP (PC, KC); 29 Mar (migrant), Farina (Fayette Co) (TAM); 6 Apr, Montrose H (JRS et al.); 15 Apr, Orland Grasslands (Cook Co) (WS). **MC**: 4, Pyramid SP (Perry Co), 5 Apr (RSR, JM et al.). **Other** (north): .27 Apr, Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie (Will Co) (AS).

Northern Shrike
LD: 21 Mar (present since early Feb), ChiBotGdn (EW, JFS); 8 Mar (first-winter), Bartel Grasslands (Cook Co) (EW:ph.); 8 Mar, ChiBotGdn (AS); 1 Mar, Heidecke L (Grundy Co) (GAW). No other reports.

White-eyed Vireo
EA: **4 Apr**, Ft Massac (KM, CT); 17 Apr, West Frankfort (Franklin Co) (LS); 20 Apr, Springbrook Prairie FP (Du Page Co) (ES); 27 Apr, Linc.P (EW, BH); 1 May, e. Knox Co (DJM). **MC**: **46**, Union Co, 10 May (SDB)—**second highest IL count**; 19, Jackson Co, 10 May (RSR, CAr, RM); 13, Union Co, 18 Apr (KM); 2, John J. Duffy FP, Palos area, 16 May (WS). **LD**: 22 May, JP (KC).

Bell's Vireo
EA: 30 Apr, Edward R. Madigan SP (Logan Co) (DFS); 1 May, Madison Co (FH); 1 May (2), Crab Or. (KM); 11 May, JP (PC). **MC**: 4, Carl.C, 10 May (DMK); 4, near Mt Pleasant (Union Co), 10 May (SDB); 3, Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie (Will Co), 9 May (CAl); 2, Hennepin Canal Parkway SP (Bureau Co), 10 May (DFS). **LD**: 18 May, West Okaw R Unit, Shelbyville FWA (Moultrie Co) (TAM). **Other**: 24 May to end of season (singing male), Eggers Wds, LCal (WM).

Yellow-throated Vireo
EA: 14 Apr (2), Jackson Co (KM); 22 Apr, Waterfall Glen FP (Du Page Co) (UG); 27 Apr, Boone Co (AB, MAR); 2 May, Champaign Co (EC). **MC**: 20, Union Co, 10 May (SDB); 9, Massac Co, 1 May (KM); 8, Salt Crk, 18 May (DFS); 6, Palos area, 26 May (EW). **LD**: 1 Jun, Rainbow Beach, Chi (DFS); 24 May, Elsen's Hill (Du Page Co) (ES).

Blue-headed Vireo
EA: 19 Apr, Rockfd (DTW); 19 Apr, Ft Massac (KM); 24 Apr, JP (DES, MJS); 27 Apr, Busey Wds (EC). **MC**: 8, Rock Island Co, 1 May (SFd); 8, Jackson Co, 10 May (RSR, CAr, RM); 8, Salt Crk, 18 May (DFS). **LD**: **4 Jun**, Thatcher Wds FP, River Forest (Cook Co) (JA); 26 May, M.Arb (JA, WM); 18 May, Decatur (TAM); 3-4 May, Carl.C (DMK). Notably high numbers and frequency of occurrence.

Warbling Vireo
EA: 13 Apr, Carl.C (DMK); **20 Apr**, Boone Co (AB, MAR); 22 Apr, Bruce WMA (TAM); 25 Apr, Adams Co (AD). **MC**: **40**, LCal, 23 May (DFS); 32, Bureau Co, 10 May (DFS); 28, Union Co, 10 May (SDB). **LD**: 28 May (migrating along lakefront), Evanston (EW); 21 May, Knox College (DJM).

Philadelphia Vireo
EA: 7 May, Linc.P (GAW); 10 May, statewide (m.ob.). **MC**: 3, Rosehill Cemetery (Cook Co), 19 May (DFS); 3, Olin Preserve of the Nature Institute (Madison Co), 25 May (WR). **LD**: 3 Jun, Grant P (DFS); 3 Jun (2), Linc.P (GAW); 18 May, Carl.C (DMK); 18 May, HL (FH); 18 May, Busey Wds (EC).

Red-eyed Vireo
EA: 14 Apr, La Rue-Pine Hills Ecological Area (Union Co) (KM); 20 Apr (6), Champaign Co (EC); 28 Apr (2), JP (SLC). **MC**: **70**, Union Co, 10 May (SDB); **63**, Palos area, 26 May (EW); 49, Rock Cut, 26 May (DFS); 12, Carl.C, 26 May (DMK); note also late-season count of 17, Grant P, 2 Jun (DFS). **LD**: **16 Jun**, Grant P (DFS); 12 Jun (3 males), Evanston (EW); 11 Jun, Linc.P (GAW).

Blue Jay
EA: 19 Apr (3), McClaughry Springs Wds FP, Palos area (EW); 22 Apr, JP (PC). **MC**: 100, Meredosia L (Morgan Co), 30 Apr (KM); 63, Evanston, 10 May (EW); 47, JP, 28 May (PC, SLC); 30, Carl.C, 30 Mar & 13 Apr (DMK). **LD**: 8 Jun, Rainbow Beach, Chi (DFS); 6 Jun (48), Wilmette (Cook Co) (EW). Wintering populations reported as depleted to absent at sites in Cook and Du Page Cos, perhaps due to West Nile Virus.

American Crow
MC: 91, Lee Co, 15 Mar (DFS); 40, JP, 18 Mar (PC); 30, Carl.C, 8 Mar & 23 Mar (DMK). Still very scarce at some sites— e.g., only 4 individuals in 15 hours of birding on 10 May, LCal (WM)—likely due to West Nile Virus.

Fish Crow
EA: 8 Mar, Ft Massac (KM); 22 Mar, Santa Fe Bottoms (Clinton Co) (DMK). **MC**: **150**, East St. Louis (Madison Co), 24 Mar (KM)—**record IL high count**; 10, Logon Hollow Fish Farm (Jackson Co), 21 Apr (RSR). **Others**: 10 May (2), s. Clinton Co (KM, RH); 18 May, Carl.C (DMK). Few reports.

Horned Lark
EA: 16 Mar, Evanston (EW). **MC**: 150, Carl.C, 23 Mar (DMK); 94, Ford Co, 5 Apr (DFS); 17, Lee Co, 3 May (DFS). **LD**: 24 Mar (2), Evanston (EW). Poorly reported.

Purple Martin
EA: 8 Mar (2), Mermet L (KM); 16 Mar, Carl.C (DMK); 23 Mar (2 males), near Charleston (Coles Co) (LBH); 21 Apr (10), Boone Co (AB, MAR). **MC**: 80, Carl.C, 3 May (DMK); 50, Mermet L, 31 Mar (KM); 10, JP, 25 May (KC). Poorly reported.

Tree Swallow
EA: 8 Mar (6), Mermet L (KM); 16 Mar, HL (FH); 16 Mar, widewaters of Des Plaines R, Channahon (Will Co) (UG); 20 Mar, Knox College (DJM). **MC**: 1300, Union Co, 5 Apr (KM, FB, CT); 1000, Frank Bellrose Refuge (Pulaski Co), 21 Apr (RSR, DK); 200, Rock Cut, 16 Apr (DTW); 110, Nelson L Marsh (Kane Co), 3 Apr (ES); 100+, L Storey (Knox Co), 17 Apr (DJM). **LD**: 1 Jun, Rainbow Beach, Chi (DFS).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow
EA: **20 Mar**, Pomona (KM); **26 Mar**, Hidden L FP (Du Page Co) (MBC)—**record early for n. IL** by five days; 4 Apr, Grant P (DFS); 4 Apr (4), Spoon L (DJM). **MC**: 70, Hennepin L, 15 May (DFS, PCk); 60, Oakwood Bottoms (Jackson Co), 4 Apr (KM, CT); 60, JP, 8 May (PC); 40 (nesting colony), Ramsey L SP (Fayette Co), 20 Apr (RJ).

Bank Swallow
EA: 5 Apr (6), Union Co (KM, CT, FB); 15 Apr, Linc.P (EW); 3 May (4), airport quarry at Rockfd (DTW); 8 May (4), Champaign Co (EC). **MC**: **1760**, Hennepin L, 15 May (DFS, PCk); 250, Winthrop H, 17 May (DTW); 100, Carl.C, 3 May (DMK). The count of 1760 is based on a tally of birds visible and identifiable at one time in one quadrant of wetlands out of a rough estimate of **10,000 swallows** over the entire wetland during the early morning hours (DFS).

Cliff Swallow
EA: **26 Mar** (2), Rend L (KM, CL); 15 Apr, JP (SF); 3 May (3), Homer L (Champaign Co) (EC). **MC**: 378, Jackson Co, 10 May (PB et al. fide RSM); 200+ (at 120 nests), Levee Road (Monroe Co), 29 May (JPZ); 40, Carl.C, 10 May & 17 May (DMK); 11, JP, 10 May (SLC, PC). **LD**: 1 Jun, Rainbow Beach, Chi (DFS); 26 May (2), Palos area (EW). Poorly reported outside s. IL. See remarks at Barn Swallow.

Barn Swallow
EA: 20 Mar, Union Co (KM); **29 Mar**, Bartlett (Du Page Co) (ES); 12 Apr, Spoon L (DJM); 15 Apr (2), JP (PC). **MC**: 750, Hennepin L, 15 May (DFS, PCk); 170 (migrating north on L Michigan), Grant P, 22 May (DFS); 50, Carl.C, 3 May (DMK). Massive reverse migration of swallows (dominated by Barn and Cliff Swallows) noted along L Michigan shoreline of Cook Co on 11 May from Wilmette to LCal, thought to include **tens of thousands** of individuals (WS et al.).

Carolina Chickadee
MC: 28, Ft Massac, 31 Mar (KM); 20, Carl.C, 23 Mar, 30 Mar & 13 Apr (DMK).

Black-capped Chickadee
MC: 37, Kendall Co, 13 Apr (DFS); 32, Salt Crk, 20 Apr (DFS); other reported maxima to 7 individuals.

Tufted Titmouse
MC: 42, Union Co, 14 Apr (KM); 30, Carl.C, 12 Apr (DMK); 20, Marshall Co, 26 Apr (DFS); 10, Palos area, 10 May (WS); 3+, L Bracken area (Knox Co), 8 Mar (DJM).

Red-breasted Nuthatch
EA: 10 May (2), M.Arb (ES, JC). **LD**: 23 May, Grant P (TSS); 13 May (pair), M.Arb (ES); 19 Mar, St. Clair Co (KM). No others reported, although some observers commented on lack of sightings.

White-breasted Nuthatch
MC: 10, ne. Lee Co, 15 May (DFS); 8, Clinton Co, 3 May (KM); other reported high counts did not exceed 4 birds.

Brown Creeper
EA: 8 Mar, Mermet L (KM); 9 Mar, HL (FH); 16 Mar (3), Kane Co (MBC); 16 Mar, JP (PC); 4 Apr, Bushnell (McDonough Co) (LLH). **MC**: 18, Linc.P, 2 Apr (GAW); 14, Waterfall Glen FP (Du Page Co), 21 Apr (JC); 12, Busey Wds, 6 Apr (EC); 6, Ft Massac, 31 Mar (KM). **LD**: **27 May** (injured), JP (SLC); 10 May, Mahomet (Champaign Co) (EC); 10 May, Evanston (EW); 13 Apr, Carl.C (DMK).

Carolina Wren
MC: 20, Union Co, 10 May (SDB); 14, Ft Massac, 31 Mar (KM); 5, Palos area, 10 May (WS); 4 (two territorial pairs), JP, 27 May (SLC); 2, McKinley Wds FP (Will Co), 16 Mar (UG). Substantial increase (including paired territorial birds) in ne. IL.

Bewick's Wren
EA: 30 Apr, Siloam Springs SP (Adams Co) (KM)—undocumented record from the sole relict breeding site in IL. [Pending IORC Review: **6 Apr**, Cook Co—evidently a record early date for n. IL.]

House Wren
EA: 13 Apr, Carl.C (DMK); 16 Apr, IIT campus, Chi (GAW); 16 Apr, Knox College (DJM). **MC**: 48, Bureau Co, 10 May (DFS); 25, Livingston Co, 2 May (DFS); 10, Carl.C, 3 May (DMK). Seriously depleted numbers in Palos area (WS), and poorly reported as migrants from Chicago's lakefront parks.

Winter Wren
EA: 16 Mar (singing), s. of Nauvoo (Hancock Co) (DJM); 20 Mar, Grassy L (Union Co) (KM); 25 Mar (2), Linc.P (BH); 25 Mar, JP (PC); 30 Mar (5), Rockfd (DTW). **MC**: 9, IBSP, 5 Apr (DTW); 7, Ft Massac, 31 Mar (KM); 5, Rockfd, 30 Mar (DTW); 2, Knox College, 13 Apr (DJM). **LD**: 12 May, JP (SLC); 3 May, s. Clinton Co (KM); 28 Apr (singing), ChiBotGdn (EW); 26 Apr, Franklin Creek NA (Lee Co) (GAW); 19 Apr, Chinquapin Psv (MF). A weak passage. **Nest-building** noted at Distillery CA (Boone Co), 18 Apr (DTW).

Sedge Wren
EA: 26 Apr, Clear Creek Levee Road (Union Co) (DJM); 4 May, Salt Crk (DFS); 6 May, Meadowbrook P, Urbana (EC). **MC**: 11, L Kakusha, Mendota (La Salle Co), 10 May (JEH); 7 (males), near Watseka (Iroquois Co), 6 May (SDB); 4-5 (singing), IBSP, 25 May (KD); 4, Iroquois Co CA (Iroquois Co), 25 May (GAW). **LD**: 17 May, JP (SLC); 12 May, Grant P— "only Grant Park record" this spring (DFS).

Marsh Wren
EA: 18 Apr, Hegewisch Marsh, LCal (DFS); 20 Apr, Linc.P (GAW); 20 Apr, JP (PC); 26 Apr, Oakwood Bottoms (Jackson Co) (RSR, VL, DM); 26 Apr, Pulaski Co (KM, DMK, FB). **MC**: 18, L Kakusha, Mendota (La Salle Co), 10 May (JEH); 5, Palos area, 26 May (EW); 4, Spunky Bottoms Marsh, Beardstown (Brown Co), 3 May (TAM). **LD**: 18 May, Linc.P (EW); 10 May, HL (FH); 10 May, Urbana (EC). A weak migration.

Golden-crowned Kinglet
EA: 8 Mar (2), Blackhawk FP (Kane Co) (ES)—migrant?; 8 Mar (4), Mermet L (KM); 16 Mar, Carl.C (DMK); 20 Mar (3), Montrose H (GAW, BH); 24 Mar (4), Boone Co (AB, MAR). **MC**: 60, Grant P, 4 Apr (DFS); 58 (including 46 in one flock), Lowden-Miller State Forest (Ogle Co), 6 Apr (DTW); 22, Ft Massac, 31 Mar (KM); 10, Knox College, 30 Mar (DJM). **LD**: 10 May, (male), Evanston (EW); 17 Apr, L Storey (Knox Co) (DJM); 15 Apr, Heron Pond (KM).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet
EA: **24 Mar**, Montrose H (GAW); 29 Mar, Rock Cut (DTW); 31 Mar, Ft Massac (KM); 4 Apr, Busey Wds (EC). **MC**: **86**, Salt Crk, 20 Apr (DFS); 38, Elsen's Hill (Du Page Co), 18 Apr (ES); 36, Rock Cut, 17 Apr (DTW); 27, Humiston Wds, 2 May (DFS); 9, Heron Pond, 15 Apr (KM). **LD**: 28 May, Montrose H (GAW); 17 May, Busey Wds (EC); 10 May, Carl.C (DMK).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
EA: 31 Mar (7), Ft Massac (KM); 4 Apr, Busey Wds (EC); 11 Apr, JP (fide PC). **MC**: 96, Union Co, 10 May (SDB); 85, Union Co, 14 Apr (KM); 29, LCal, 23 May (DFS); 27, JP, 20 Apr (PC); 14, Busey Wds, 20 Apr (EC). **LD**: 2 Jun, Grant P (DFS); 19 May, Wilmette (Cook Co) (EW); 2 May, n. of Little Swan L (Warren Co) (LLH).

Eastern Bluebird
EA: 15 Mar (3), Boone Co (AB, MAR); 16 Mar, Montrose H (GAW); 21 Mar (2), Woodstock (McHenry Co) (DF). **MC**: 20, Jackson Co, 10 May (RSR, CAr, RM); 19, Union Co, 10 May (SDB); 12, Carl.C, 22 Mar (DMK); 5, Rockfd, 16 Mar (DTW). **LD**: 24 May, JP (JSR). **Other**: wintering female through 7 Mar, Wilmette (Cook Co) (EW).

Veery
EA: 30 Apr, Carpenter P, Springfield (Sangamon Co) (DFS); 1 May (2), Rock Island Co (SFd); 1 May, Ft Massac (KM); 4 May, JP (SLC). **MC**: 20, JP, 10 May (PC et al.); 3, Jackson Co, 10 May (RSR, CAr, RM); 2+, Galesburg (Knox Co), 14 May (DJM). **LD**: 3 Jun, Montrose H (GAW); 17 May, Madison Co (FH). Poor numbers overall; the one respectable high count was atypical of the season even at that site (PC).

Gray-cheeked Thrush
EA: 26 Apr, Rend L (Franklin Co) (LS); 2 May, Humiston Wds (DFS); 8 May (2), Rock Island Co (SFd); 9 May, JP (PC). **MC**: 22, Union Co, 10 May (SDB); 5, JP, 10 May (PC et al.); 5, Champaign Co, 10 May (EC); 5, Carl.C, 10 May (DMK). **LD**: 6 Jun, JP (KC); 30 May (singing), Charleston (Coles Co) (LBH)—"latest county departure on record" (LBH); 28 May, e. of Spoon L (DJM); 17 May (2), Carl.C (DMK). The weak peak passage statewide coincided with the SBC.

Swainson's Thrush
EA: 20 Apr, LaBagh Wds FP, Chi (GAW); 20 Apr (2), JP (PC, SLC); 22 Apr, Christopher L (Franklin Co) (LS); 23 Apr (2), Ft Massac (KM); 29 Apr, Bushnell

(McDonough Co) (LLH). **MC**: 76, Union Co, 10 May (SDB); 19, Champaign Co, 10 May (EC); 16, Clinton Co, 10 May (KM, RH); 14, JP, 20 May (PC); 14, Grant P, 28 May (DFS). **LD**: **13 Jun**, IIT campus, Chi (GAW); 11 Jun, Wilmette (Cook Co) (EW); 8 Jun, Grant P (DFS); 26 May (2), Carl.C (DMK); 26 May, Knox College (DJM). **Others**: Heavy flight of nocturnal migrants, Galesburg (Knox Co), 14 May (DJM). Very poor numbers at Chicago's lakefront parks.

Hermit Thrush

EA: 16 Mar, Carl.C (DMK); 28 Mar (3), Montrose H (GAW); 28 Mar (3), JP (PC, KC); 29 Mar, Sugar R FP (Winnebago Co) (DTW); 4 Apr, Bushnell (McDonough Co) (LLH). **MC**: 32, JP, 15 Apr (PC, KC); 31, Grant P, 28 Apr (DFS); 26, Eggers Wds, LCal, 16 Apr (CM); 3, Pomona, 30 Mar (RSR). **LD**: 13 May, JP (PC, KC); 26 Apr, Madison Co (FH); 26 Apr, Ballard Nature Center (Effingham Co) (MAH); 23 Apr, Galesburg (Knox Co) (DJM).

Wood Thrush

EA: 15 Apr (2), Heron Pond (KM); 18 Apr, Hyde Park, Chi (fide KC); 1 May, Du Page Co (R&KF); 6 May, Paxton (Ford Co) (EC). **MC**: 28, Union Co, 10 May (SDB); 13, ne. Lee Co, 17 May (DFS); 12 (some on territory), Palos area, 26 May (EW); 7, Fall Creek Rest Area (Adams Co), 5 May (AD). **LD**: 21 May, Grant P (DFS); 13 May, JP (PC).

American Robin

EA: 9 Mar (2), Boone Co (AB, MAR); 12 Mar (4), JP (KC). **MC**: 500, Carl.C, 12 Apr (DMK); 425, Ford Co, 5 Apr (DFS); 360, Kendall Co, 23 Mar (DFS); 212, JP, 1 Apr (PC).

Varied Thrush, Libertyville, Lake County. Late April 2003. This bird remained in Lake County until 5 May 2003, a late date for this species. Unfortunately, the bird was not located on Spring Bird Count Day. Photo by Mike Matson.

VARIED THRUSH

LD: late Apr - **5 May** (possibly later), Libertyville (Lake Co) (MM:ph.)—**record late date** by four days, and one of the very few records evidently involving spring migrants. 40 records to date.

Gray Catbird

EA: 16 Apr, Chinquapin Psv (MF); 18 Apr, JP (KC); 22 Apr, Christopher L (Franklin Co) (LS); 27 Apr, Boone Co (AB, MAR). **MC**: **119**, JP, 10 May (PC et al.); 60, LCal, 23 May (DFS); 53, Bureau Co, 10 May (DFS); 16, Carl.C, 10 May (DMK). **LD**: **16 Jun** (3), Grant P (DFS); **13 Jun** (3), IIT campus, Chi (GAW)—within the limited corpus of published departure dates (confined to the Cook Co lakefront), these are the latest available dates.

Northern Mockingbird

EA: 7 Apr, Meadowbrook P, Urbana (EC); 19 Apr, Springbrook Prairie FP (Du Page Co) (JLS fide ES); 22 Apr, JP (PC). **MC**: 8, Jackson Co, 10 May (RSR, CAr, RM); 7, Massac Co, 1 May (KM). **LD**: **11 Jun**, Linc.P (GAW); 10 May, Evanston (JK fide EW). More reports than usual in Champaign Co (EC).

Brown Thrasher

EA: **16 Mar**, Boone Co (AB, MAR)—record early for n. IL in the published corpus, but note a previously unpublished arrival from JP on **16 Mar 1990** (HR); 20 Mar, Busey Wds (EC); 20 Mar, Oakwood Bottoms (Jackson Co) (KM); 22 Mar (2), Carl.C (DMK); 29 Mar, JP (DA et al.). **MC**: 30, Carl.C, 12 May (DMK); 19, Marshall Co, 26 Apr (DFS); 14, Grant P, 21 Apr (DFS). **LD**: 8 Jun, Rainbow Beach, Chi (DFS); 4 Jun, Linc.P (GAW).

European Starling

MC: **10,000**, Carl.C, 23 Mar (DMK); 3000 (evening roost), Indian Rdg N, LCal, 5 Apr (WM); 1365, Ford Co, 5 Apr (DFS); 200, Bushnell (McDonough Co), 3 Mar (LLH). No data on migration limits received this year.

American Pipit (first passage)

EA: **22 Feb**, Brandon Lock & Dam (**Will Co**) (AS)—**record early for n. IL by six days**; 8 Mar (3), Bartel Grasslands (Cook Co) (EW); 8 Mar (4), Pulaski Co (KM). **MC**: 150, Marion Co, 31 Mar (KM); 100, Lks Riverbend, 5 Apr (EC); 95, Pr.Rdg, 21 Mar (KM, CL). **LD**: 5 Apr (2), Ford Co (DFS); 23 Mar, Evanston (EW).

American Pipit (second passage)

EA: 27 Apr, Greene Valley FP (Du Page Co) (UG); 28 Apr (2), Evanston (EW). **MC**: **150+**, near Pr.Rdg, 19 Apr (MAH); **150**, Carl.C, 19 Apr (DMK); 7, ne. Lee Co, 3 May (DFS); 7, Evanston, 10 May (EW). **LD**: 20 May (2), Montrose H (GAW); 10 May, Carl.C (DMK); 10 May, Lks Riverbend (EC).

Cedar Waxwing (first passage)

EA: 8 Mar (80), Pulaski Co (KM). **MC**: 200+, Palos area, 9 Apr (WS); 165, Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation (Kane Co), 8 Mar (DFS); 100+, Galesburg (Knox Co), 7 Apr (DJM); 80, Pulaski Co, 8 Mar (KM). **LD**: 12 Apr (20), Carl.C (DMK). Split passage poorly defined in parts of ne. IL.

Cedar Waxwing (second passage)

EA: 8 May (26), M.Arb (MBC); 9 May, HL (FH); 12 May (2), Knox College (DJM).. **MC**: 355 (southbound), Linc.P, 19 May (EW); 346, JP, 19 May (PC); 151, Jackson Co, 10 May (RSR, CAr, RM); 75, Carl.C, 26 May (DMK). **LD**: 16 Jun (2), Grant P (DFS); 6 Jun (5), Wilmette (Cook Co) (EW); 31 May (8), M.Arb (MBC).

Blue-winged Warbler

EA: 14 Apr, Pomona (KM); 27 Apr, ChiBotGdn (AH fide EW); 27 Apr, M.Arb (ES); 27 Apr, Busey Wds (EC). **MC**: **12**, Humiston Wds, 2 May (DFS)—record high count for c. IL; 7, Palos area, 3 May (WS); 7, e. Knox Co, 28 May (DJM); 3, Pomona, 2 May (KM, CL). **LD**: 19 May, JP (SLC); 19 May, Rosehill Cemetery (Cook Co) (DFS); 18 May, Decatur (TAM); 18 May, Elsen's Hill (Du Page Co) (ES); 4 May, Carl.C (DMK). "**Brewster's Warbler**": Three reports: 2 May (singing variant Blue-winged song), 1 Humiston Wds (DFS); 10 May (male), Moraine View SP (McLean Co) (MLR); 1 Jun (male), near Millburn (Lake Co) (SDB, SD).

Golden-winged Warbler

EA: 1 May, Chinquapin Psv (MF); 4 May, Carl.C (DMK); 7 May (2), M.Arb (ES); 8 May (2), Rockfd (DTW); 8 May, JP (KC). **MC**: 8, Pecatonica, 10 May (DTW); 8, Palos area, 16 May (WS, EW); 5, Moraine View SP (McLean Co), 10 May (MLR). **LD**: 1 Jun (singing male), Rainbow Beach, Chi (DFS); 18 May, Busey Wds (EC); 15 May, s. Clinton Co (KM). See preceding for hybrids.

Tennessee Warbler

EA: **14 Apr**, La Rue-Pine Hills Ecological Area (Union Co) (KM); 20 Apr (9), Champaign Co (EC); 30 Apr, Linc.P (GAW); 1 May, Rock Island Co (SFd). **MC**: 79, Union Co, 10 May (SDB); 66, Jackson Co, 10 May (RSR, CAr, RM); 56, Rosehill Cemetery (Cook Co), 19 May (DFS); 45, Champaign Co, 10 May (EC). **LD**: 5 Jun, Grant P (DFS); 2 Jun (2), IIT campus, Chi (GAW); 30 May (male), Galesburg (Knox Co) (DJM); 25 May, HL (FH).

Orange-crowned Warbler

EA: 14 Apr, Pomona (RSR); 18 Apr, Van Vlissengen Prairie (Cook Co) (DFS); 19 Apr (2), Rockfd (DTW); 27 Apr (6), Champaign Co (EC). **MC**: 4, JP, 6 May (WS); 4, M.Arb, 7 May (ES); 4, Pecatonica, 10 May (DTW); 2, Carl.C, 3 May (DMK). **LD**: 25 May (singing male), Salt Crk (DFS); 18 May, Carl.C (DMK); 6 May, Knox College (DJM).

Nashville Warbler

EA: 14 Apr, La Rue-Pine Hills Ecological Area (Union Co) (KM); 20 Apr, Salt Crk; 20 Apr, LaBagh Wds FP, Chi (GAW); 29 Apr, Champaign Co (EC). **MC**: 56, Rosehill Cemetery (Cook Co), 13 May (DFS); 55, Ryerson CA, Riverwoods (Lake Co), 8 May (JC); 45, Champaign Co, 10 May (EC); 40, Carl.C, 3 May (DMK). **LD**: 5 Jun, Grant P (DFS); 21 May, Knox College (DJM); 18 May, Carl.C (DMK).

Northern Parula

EA: **31 Mar**, Ft Massac (KM); **3 Apr** (female type), Argonne National Laboratory Reservation (Du Page Co) (UG); **4 Apr**, Downers Grove (Du Page Co) (R&KF); **5 Apr** (female), Eggers Wds, LCal (*WM); 13 Apr, Champaign Co (EC). **MC**: 40, Union Co, 14 Apr (KM); 11, Humiston Wds, 2 May (DFS); 8, JP, 10 May (BH, PC). **LD**: **7 Jun** (singing male), Grundy Co (DFS); 27 May, JP (SLC); 27 May (singing male), Rosehill Cemetery (Cook Co) (DFS); 9 May, HL (FH). Unusually common in n. IL.

Yellow Warbler

EA: 18 Apr (3), Union Co (KM); 19 Apr (4), Carl.C (DMK); 26 Apr, LCal (EW); 27 Apr (3), Boone Co (AB, MAR); 29 Apr, Champaign Co (EC). **MC**: 60, LCal, 23 May (DFS); 50, Champaign Co, 10 May (EC); 38, Bureau Co, 10 May (DFS); 15, Carl.C, 3 May (DMK). **LD**: **17 Jun** (2 males), Grant P (DFS); 11 Jun, Linc.P (GAW).

Chestnut-sided Warbler

EA: 30 Apr, JP (DC); 1 May (3), Ft Massac (KM); 2 May (2), Humiston Wds (DFS); 2 May, Chinquapin Psv (MF). **MC**: **42**, Salt Crk, 18 May (DFS); 19, Palos area, 10 May (WS); 7, Clinton Co, 13 May (KM). **LD**: 5 Jun (4), Grant P (DFS); 26 May, Carl.C (DMK); 24 May (2), Knox College (DJM).

Magnolia Warbler

EA: 30 Apr, Linc.P (BH); 3 May, East St. Louis (Madison Co) (KM); 8 May (2), Rockfd (DTW); 9 May, Busey Wds (EC). **MC**: 56, LCal, 23 May (DFS); 28, Champaign Co, 10 May (EC); 8, Carl.C, 18 May (DMK). **LD**: 11 Jun (2), JP (PP fide KC); 9 Jun (male), Grant P (DFS); 26 May, Carl.C (DMK); 25 May, Galesburg (Knox Co) (DJM).

Cape May Warbler

EA: **15 Apr**, Orient Bottoms (Franklin Co) (LS)—**record early IL arrival** by four days; 28 Apr, Wheaton (Du Page Co) (ES); 30 Apr, Carpenter P, Springfield (Sangamon Co) (DFS). **MC**: 12, IBSP, 17 May (DTW); 9, ne. Lee Co, 17 May (DFS); 4, Carl.C, 10 May (DMK). **LD**: 5 Jun (2 females), Grant P (DFS); 25 May, Galesburg (Knox Co) (DJM); 18 May, O'Fallon (St. Clair Co) (KM).

Black-throated Blue Warbler

EA: 6 May, Paxton (Ford Co) (EC); 9 May (2 males), JP (PC, SLC); 10 May (2), Pecatonica (DTW). **MC**: 4, JP, 10 May (SLC, PC)—the only report greater than two. **LD**: 3 Jun (female), Grant P (DFS); 3 Jun (2), Montrose H (GAW); 17 May (male), Spitler Wds SNA (Macon Co) (TAM). No data from s. IL.

Yellow-rumped Warbler

EA: 8 Mar, Mermet L (KM); **16 Mar**, Kane Co (MBC); 20 Mar, Knox College (DJM). **MC**: 152, Humiston Wds, 2 May (DFS); 150++, Rock Island Co, 1 May (SFd); 111, Blackhawk FP (Kane Co), 12 May (JC); 47, Ft Massac, 23 Apr (KM). **LD**: 3 Jun, Grant P (DFS); 18 May, Decatur (TAM); 18 May, Busey Wds (EC); 15 May, East St. Louis (Madison Co) (DMK).

Black-throated Green Warbler

EA: **31 Mar**, Ft Massac (KM); **2 Apr** (singing male), Linc.P (BH, GAW et al.)—**record early arrival outside extreme s. IL by four days; record early for n. IL by nine days**; 20 Apr, Montrose H (GAW); 20 Apr (male), JP (KC, SLC); 20 Apr, Chinquapin Psv (MF). **MC**: **56**, Ryerson CA, Riverwoods (Lake Co), 8 May (JC)—**record single-party spring count**; 26, Humiston Wds, 2 May (DFS); 26, Salt Crk, 18 May (DFS); 17, Rock Island Co, 8 May (SFd); 2, Carl.C, 3 May (DMK). **LD**: **14 Jun**, Lks Riverbend (EC); **13 Jun**, IBSP (DRD); 9 Jun (male), Evanston (EW); 4 Jun (singing male), Chinquapin Psv (MF); 4 Jun, Linc.P (GAW); 8 May, Pomona (RSR, VL, VK).

Blackburnian Warbler

EA: **20 Apr** (male), Salt Crk (*DFS)—second earliest for n. IL; 26 Apr, Ft Massac (KM, DMK, FB); 2 May, Chinquapin Psv (MF); 6 May (2 males), JP (WS, PC). **MC**: 12, M.Arb, 12 May (ES); 12, Salt Crk, 18 May (DFS); 5, Rock Island Co, 8 May (SFd); 2, s. Clinton Co, 13 May (KM). **LD**: **11 Jun** (female), Linc.P (GAW); 5 Jun (female), Grant P (DFS); 25 May (male), Bushnell (McDonough Co) (LLH); 25 May (male), Chinquapin Psv (MF); 19 May (female), Pomona (MBz fide RSR).

Yellow-throated Warbler

EA: 31 Mar, Ft Massac (KM); **1 Apr**, Afton FP (De Kalb Co) (DJS)—**record early for n. IL by six days**; 15 Apr, JP (PC); 18 Apr, Distillery CA (Boone Co) (DTW); 18 Apr, Spitler Wds SNA (Macon Co) (TAM). **MC**: 14, Union Co, 10 May (SDB); 9, Rock Island Co, 8 May (SFd); 5, M.Arb, 3 May (ES); 4 (singing males), Mississippi Palisades SP (Carroll Co), 6 May (JC).

Pine Warbler

EA: 20 Mar (5), Pomona (KM); **24 Mar**, Rockfd (DTW); 13 Apr, Saw Wee Kee P, Oswego (Kendall Co) (DFS); 15 Apr (male), JP (SF); 15 Apr, Champaign Co (EC). **MC**: **12**, M.Arb, 23 Apr (ES)—**record high count for n. IL**; 6, Du Page Co, 19 Apr (ES); 5, Pomona, 20 Mar (KM). **LD**: 19 May (female), JP (SLC); 13 May (2), Rosehill Cemetery (Cook Co) (DFS); 3 May, Carl.C (DMK).

Prairie Warbler

EA: 15 Apr (5), Heron Pond (KM); 20 Apr, JP (SLC); 20 Apr, Busey Wds (EC); 27 Apr, Wilmette (Cook Co) (EW). **MC**: 8, Jackson Co, 10 May (RSR, CAr, RM); 5, Heron Pond, 15 Apr (KM). **LD**: 17 May, M.Arb (ES); 10 May, Parkland College campus, Champaign (Champaign Co) (EC); 26 Apr, Eldon Hazlet SP (Clinton Co) (TAM).

Palm Warbler

EA: **1 Apr**, M.Arb (MBC)—excluding a record of "Yellow Palm Warbler" on 29 Mar 1997, **ties for earliest state record**; **10 Apr**, Tri-County SP (Du Page Co) (MBl, MRS); 15 Apr, Northside P (Du Page Co) (ES); 15 Apr, JP (PC); 19 Apr, Boone Co (AB, MAR); 19 Apr, Heron Pond (KM); 23 Apr, L Storey (Knox Co) (DJM). **MC**: 120++, Rock Island Co, 1 May (SFd); 118, JP, 10 May (SLC et al.); 107, Humiston Wds, 2 May (DFS); 30, Carl.C, 3 May (DMK). **LD**: 5 Jun (2), Grant P (DFS); 2 Jun, Wauk (JL, JSg); 26 May, Carl.C (DMK); 18 May, Decatur (TAM). **Other**: "**Yellow Palm Warbler**" (race *hypochrysea*): **10 Apr**, Tri-County SP (this park recently designated in extreme nw. Du Page Co, fide ES) (MBl, *MRS et al.); two previous records of this form accepted by IORC, plus one additional record under review.

Bay-breasted Warbler

EA: **25 Apr**, Adams Co (AD); 1 May, Ft Massac (KM); 10 May, Pecatonica (DTW); 10 May (3), Bakers L, Palatine (Cook Co) (GAW); 10 May (2), JP (BH, PC). **MC**: 12, LCal, 23 May (DFS); 5, Champaign Co, 9 May (EC); 3, s. Clinton Co, 13 May (KM). **LD**: 5 Jun (female), Grant P (DFS); 18 May (3), Decatur (TAM); 18 May, Busey Wds (EC); 17 May, Madison Co (FH).

Blackpoll Warbler

EA: 26 Apr, Madison Co (FH); 26 Apr, Ft Massac (KM, FB, DMK); 28 Apr, ChiBotGdn (AH fide EW). **MC**: 23, Union Co, 10 May (SDB); 11, Urbana, 10 May (EC); 10, Rock Cut, 26 May (DFS); 9, Linc.P, 28 May (GAW). **LD**: **13 Jun** (female), IIT campus, Chi (GAW); 10 Jun (male), Grant P (DFS); 26 May, Carl.C (DMK); 25 May, Busey Wds (EC).

Cerulean Warbler

EA: 18 Apr, Pomona (KM); 21 Apr, Brady's Wds, Mahomet (Champaign Co) (BH); 3 May (male), Palos area (WS); 5 May, Elsen's Hill (Du Page Co) (ES). **MC**: 12, Jackson Co, 10 May (RSR, CAr, RM); 3 (singing males), Mississippi Palisades SP (Carroll Co), 6 May (JC). **LD**: **5 Jun** (singing male), Westchester (Cook Co) (DFS); 26 May, Palos area (EW); 25 May, Ryerson CA, Riverwoods (Lake Co) (AS). **Other**: 1 (territorial), Chinquapin Psv, 9-23 May (MF).

Black-and-white Warbler

EA: **16 Mar**, Carl.C (DMK)—**record early spring arrival by 13 days**; **29 Mar** (first winter female), Waukegan harbor (Lake Co) (*JCB et al.)—**record early arrival for n. IL by four days**, tying the previous early arrival dates from c. and s. IL; 4 Apr, Union Co (KM); **5 Apr** (female), Decatur (TAM); 21 Apr (male), JP (KC); 24 Apr, Rock Island Co (SFd). **MC**: 18, Rock Island Co, 1 May (SFd); 14, Salt Crk, 18 May (DFS); 7, Champaign Co, **10 Apr** (EC); 5, Jackson Co, 10 May (RSR, CAr, RM). **LD**: 3 Jun, Linc.P (GAW); 21 May, Knox College (DJM); 18 May (2), Carl.C (DMK).

American Redstart

EA: 18 Apr, Pomona (KM); 1 May (ad. male), JP (PC); 1 May, Rock Island Co (SFd); 1 May, Chinquapin Psv (MF). **MC**: 128, LCal, 23 May (DFS); 37, Bureau Co, 10 May (DFS); 26, Champaign Co, 10 May (EC); 17, Jackson Co, 10 May (RSR, CAr, RM); 15, Carl.C, 17 May (DMK). **LD**: 8 Jun, Rainbow Beach, Chi (DFS); 25 May (6), Busey Wds (EC); 23 May, Chinquapin Psv (MF); 18 May, Madison Co (FH).

Prothonotary Warbler

EA: **6 Apr**, Mermet L (KM, CT)—**ties for record early IL arrival**; 30 Apr, HL (FH); 1 May, Rock Island Co (SFd); 4 May, Champaign Co (EC); 9 May, Linc.P (GAW); 9 May, Columbia Wds, Palos area (WS). **MC**: 20, Massac Co, 1 May (KM); 17, Union Co, 10 May (SDB); **13**, Pecatonica, 10 May (DTW)—record high count for n. IL; 7, Rock Island Co, 8 May (SFd); 7, Chau, 15 May (R&SBj); 4, Bureau Co, 10 May (DFS). **LD**: 18 May, Salt Crk (DFS); 15 May, M.Arb (ES); 10 May, Champaign Co (EC).

Worm-eating Warbler

EA: 14 Apr (3), Union Co (KM); 20 Apr, Champaign Co (EC); 7 May (male), Knox College (DJM). **MC**: **33**, La Rue-Pine Hills Ecological Area (Union Co), 10 May (SDB); 8, Jackson Co, 10 May (RSR, CAr, RM); 4, Union Co, 18 Apr (KM). **LD**: 16 May, Waterfall Glen FP (Du Page Co) (R&KF). Few other reports.

[SWAINSON'S WARBLER

EA: 4-10 May (singing male), Jackson Co.]

Ovenbird

EA: 18 Apr, Pomona (KM); 20 Apr, Champaign Co (EC); 28 Apr, ChiBotGdn (EW); 2 May (2), Boone Co (AB, MAR). **MC**: 39, JP, 10 May (PC et al.); 20+, Chicago lakefront (Cook Co), 11 May (WS); 18, Champaign Co, 10 May (EC); 14, Humiston Wds, 2 May (DFS); 5, Ramsey L SP (Fayette Co), 26 Apr (TAM). **LD**: **13 Jun**, IIT campus, Chi (GAW); 10 Jun, Grant P (DFS); 18 May, Madison Co (FH); 18 May, Busey Wds (EC).

Northern Waterthrush

EA: 16 Apr, Thatcher Wds FP, River Forest (Cook Co) (JA); 16 Apr, JP (PC); 19 Apr, Mermet L (KM); 20 Apr, Busey Wds (EC). **MC**: 28, Bureau Co, 10 May (DFS); 27, JP, 10 May (PC et al.); 25+, Chicago lakefront (Cook Co), 11 May (WS); 10, Meredosia L (Morgan Co), 30 Apr (KM); 5, Carl.C, 10 May (DMK). **LD**: 2 Jun, Grant P (DFS); 25 May, Busey Wds (EC); 24 May, Spoon L (DJM); 10 May (5), Carl.C (DMK).

Louisiana Waterthrush

EA: 20 Mar, Pomona (KM); **2 Apr**, Grant P (DFS); 6 Apr, Carl.C (DMK); 7 Apr, Decatur (TAM); 16 Apr, e. Knox Co (DJM). **MC**: 13, Jackson Co, 10 May (RSR, CAr, RM); 10, Union Co, 14 Apr (KM); 4, Franklin Creek NA (Lee Co), 3 May (DFS). **LD**: 17 May, Spitler Wds SNA (Macon Co) (TAM); 17 May, Elsen's Hill (Du Page Co) (ES); 8 May, Rock Island Co (SFd); 6 May, JP (WS, BH); 13 Apr, Carl.C (DMK).

Kentucky Warbler

EA: 19 Apr, Heron Pond (KM); 20 Apr, Rogers P, Chi (TSS); 26 Apr, Ramsey L SP (Fayette Co) (TAM); 30 Apr, Linc.P (GAW). **MC**: **67**, Union Co, 10 May (SDB); 21, Jackson Co, 10 May (RSR, CAr, RM). **LD**: 18 May, Salt Crk (DFS); 17 May, Vermilion Co (EC); 3 May (2), Carl.C (DMK).

Connecticut Warbler

EA: 10 May, Spitler Wds SNA (Macon Co) (TAM); 13 May, Carl.L (KM); 4 May, M.Arb (ES, MBC); 15 May, Espenscheid FP (Winnebago Co) (DTW). **MC**: 4, M.Arb, 26 May (JA, WM); 2 (males), Montrose H, 28 May (AS); 2 (males), JP, 28 May (PC, SLC). **LD**: 5 Jun (male), Middle Fork SFWA (Vermilion Co) (SDB); 3 Jun, Montrose H (GAW); 24 May, Knox College (DJM); 18 May, Madison Co (FH); 18 May, Decatur (TAM).

Mourning Warbler

EA: 7 May, Orient Bottoms (Franklin Co) (LS); 10 May (2 males), JP (PC, BH); 17 May, Spitler Wds SNA (Macon Co) (TAM). **MC**: 6, Rainbow Beach, Chi, 1 Jun (DFS); 5, JP, 28 May (PC, SLC); 4, Elsen's Hill (Du Page Co), 24 May (ES); 4 (males), Palos area, 26 May (EW). **LD**: 8 Jun, Rainbow Beach, Chi (DFS); 4 Jun,

Linc.P (GAW); 26 May, Carl.C (DMK). **Other**: territorial male, Downers Grove (Du Page Co), 25 May - 6 Jun (R&KF).

Common Yellowthroat

EA: 14 Apr, Pomona (KM); 20 Apr, Champaign Co (EC); 28 Apr (2), Montrose H (GAW); 1 May, Rock Island Co (SFd). **MC**: **103**, JP, 10 May (SBC, m.ob.); **96**, Union Co, 10 May (SDB); 61, Springbrook Prairie FP (Du Page Co), 10 May (JC); 40, Champaign Co, 10 May (EC). **LD**: **17 Jun** (2 males), Grant P (DFS); 4 Jun (4), Linc.P (GAW). Good numbers, with the peak passage statewide evidently coinciding with the 10 May SBC.

Hooded Warbler

EA: 14 Apr (2), Union Co (KM); 28 Apr, Montrose H (GAW); 10 May, Pecatonica (DTW). **MC**: **13** (males), La Rue-Pine Hills Ecological Area (Union Co), 10-24 May (SDB, SD); **6**, Cap Sauers Holding FP, Palos area, 24 May (WS); 5, Jackson Co, 10 May (RSR, CAr, RM). **LD**: 2 Jun (singing male), Grant P (DFS); 29 May (female), IIT campus, Chi (GAW); 10 May, Champaign Co (EC); 3 May, s. Clinton Co (KM).

Wilson's Warbler

EA: 3 May, e. Lee Co (DFS); 6 May, Montrose H (BH); 6 May (male), JP (PC); 9 May, Busey Wds (EC); 10 May, Spoon L (DJM); 13 May, s. Clinton Co (KM); 13 May, Pomona (RSR). **MC**: 40, LCal, 23 May (DFS); 7, Elsen's Hill (Du Page Co), 24 May (ES); 6, Carl.C, 18 May (DMK). **LD**: **11 Jun**, Linc.P (GAW); 5 Jun, near Rossville (Vermilion Co) (SDB); 26 May (4), Carl.C (DMK).

Canada Warbler

EA: 10 May, Bakers L, Palatine (Cook Co) (GAW); 10 May, Evanston (EW); 10 May (male), JP (BH); 10 May, Busey Wds (EC); 24 May, Carl.C (DMK). **MC**: 10, JP, 19 May (PC, SLC); 10, Salt Crk, 25 May (DFS); 10 (males), Palos area, 26 May (EW); 6, Elsen's Hill (Du Page Co), 24 May (ES). **LD**: 8 Jun, Rainbow Beach, Chi (DFS); 26 May, Carl.C (DMK); 25 May (2), Busey Wds (EC).

Yellow-breasted Chat

EA: 19 Apr (3), Heron Pond (KM); 4 May, JP (SLC); 10 May, Champaign Co (EC). **MC**: 23, Union Co, 10 May (SDB); 18, Jackson Co, 10 May (RSR, CAr, RM); 6, Massac Co, 1 May (KM); 2, JP, 18 May (AS, PC). **LD**: 26 May, Fishhk (TAM); 25 May, JP (KC); 25 May, HL (FH).

Summer Tanager

EA: **15 Apr**, Heron Pond (KM); 25 Apr, Giant City SP (Jackson Co) (DJM); 26 Apr (ad. male), Elton Hazlet SP (Clinton Co) (TAM); 1 May (imm. male), JP (PC); 6-10 May, w. of Rockton (Winnebago Co) (DTW); 15 May, Knox College (DJM). **MC**: **31**, Union Co, 10 May (SDB); 18, Jackson Co, 10 May (RSR, CAr, RM). **LD**: 24 May (first-spring male), Humboldt P, Chi (BH); 23 May, Palos area (WS); 20-22 May (eating oranges at feeder), rural site near Mendota (La Salle Co) (JEH); 6-10 May, w. of Rockton (Winnebago Co) (DTW); 10 May, Champaign Co (EC). **Other** (north): 21 May into June (first-year male), River Forest (Cook Co) (JA, EW:video et al.).

Scarlet Tanager

EA: 15 Apr (2), Heron Pond (KM); 26 Apr (2), Ballard Nature Center (Effingham Co) (MAH); 2 May, Decatur (TAM); 4 May (male), JP (SLC); 8 May (3), Rockfd (DTW). **MC**: 23, Union Co, 10 May (SDB); 19, Jackson Co, 10 May (RSR, CAr, RM); 13, Palos area, 10 May (WS); 11, M.Arb, 15 May (ES); 4 (2 males, 2 females), Spitler Wds SNA (Macon Co), 17 May (TAM). **LD**: 2 Jun (female), JP (KC); 2 Jun (2), Grant P (DFS).

Eastern Towhee

EA: 16 Mar, Busey Wds (EC); 20 Mar (4), Montrose H (GAW, BH); 29 Mar, Mallard L FP (Du Page Co) (ES). **MC**: 30, Carl.C, 23 Mar (DMK); 20, Crab Or., 7 Apr (KM); 11, LCal, 23 May (DFS). **LD**: 2 Jun (2 males), Rainbow Beach, Chi (DFS); 27 Apr, Madison Co (FH).

American Tree Sparrow

EA: 21 Feb, JP (PC); 13 Mar (3), Starved Rock SP (La Salle Co) (MLR); 14 Mar, Fox R Bluff FP (Kane Co) (ES). **MC**: 56, Lee Co, 15 Mar (DFS); 21, Johnson Co, 22 Feb (KM, DMK, FB); 15, Wolf L, LCal, 18 Mar (CM). **LD**: 19 Apr, Deadstick Pond, LCal (WM); 12 Apr, Kane Co (KM); 20 Mar (a few), e. Knox Co (DJM); 16 Mar, HL (FH).

Chipping Sparrow

EA: **16 Mar**, McDowell Grove FP (Du Page Co) (ES)—record early for n. IL by one day; **18 Mar**, Woodridge (Du Page Co) (UG); 22 Mar, Linc.P (GAW); 23 Mar, Union Co (KM); 28 Mar, Busey Wds (EC). **MC**: 44, Livingston Co, 2 May (DFS); 34, Lee Co, 19 Apr (DFS); 30, Ft Massac, 6 Apr (KM, CT, FB). **LD**: 4 Jun, Grant P (DFS); 7 May, HL (FH).

Clay-colored Sparrow

EA: 28 Apr, Montrose H (GAW); 29 Apr, Galesburg (Knox Co) (DJM); 2 May, n. of Little Swan L (Warren Co) (LLH); 5 May, Meadowbrook P, Urbana (EC); 7 May (2), McGinnis Slough, Palos area (WS). **MC**: 4 (flock), Evanston, 10 May (EW); 3, IBSP, 10 May (JSt fide JRS); 3, Bureau Co, 10 May (DFS); 2, Galesburg (Knox Co), 30 Apr (DJM). **LD**: 22 May, Grant P (DFS); 17 May, Wadsworth wetlands (Lake Co) (AS); 8 May (singing), Galesburg (Knox Co) (DJM). Lower numbers than in recent years.

Field Sparrow

EA: 11 Mar (2), Fayette Co (MAH); 14 Mar, HL (KM); 16 Mar, Busey Wds (EC); 20 Mar (2), Montrose H (GAW); 22 Mar, Roy C. Blackwell FP (Du Page Co) (ES). **MC**: 34, Lee Co, 19 Apr (DFS); 27, Springbrook Prairie FP (Du Page Co), 10 May (JC); 26, Heron Pond, 15 Apr (KM). **LD**: 24 May, Linc.P (EW); 19 May, JP (PC). **Other (leucistic)**: Grundy Co, 22 Mar (DFS).

Vesper Sparrow

EA: **8 Mar**, West Okaw R Unit, Shelbyville FWA (Moultrie Co) (TAM); 16 Mar, Carl.C (DMK); 21 Mar (4), Pr.Rdg (KM); 23 Mar, Kane Co (DFS); 28 Mar, Evanston (EW:ph.); 29 Mar (2), Rock Cut (DTW). **MC**: **38**, Lee Co, 19 Apr (DFS); **35**, Ford Co, 5 Apr (DFS); 19, Hennepin L, 3 Apr (DFS, PCk); 12, Livingston Co, 2 May (DFS); 4, Pr.Rdg, 21 Mar (KM); 3, Carl.C, 23 Mar (DMK). **LD**: 22 Apr, M.Arb (MBC); 20 Apr, JP (SLC); 20 Apr, Pomona (RSR); 19 Apr (2), Carl.C (DMK); additional dates in May from sites with appropriate habitat suggest summering populations. DFS's remarks on the high counts cited above are instructive: "...I am convinced that daily counts close to 100 could be found if someone were willing to spend all day in corn and soybean fields in early to mid April in most of the northern and central counties in Illinois. All of these counts came from no more than a morning of birding, and, except for the Lee Co. count when I was searching for Smith's Longspurs, I did not focus exclusively on agricultural habitats."

Lark Sparrow

EA: **10 Apr**, Lost Mound NWR (Jo Daviess Co) (DTW); **11 Apr** (first winter), L Arlington, Arlington Heights (Cook Co) (*JCB)—**record early arrivals for n. IL**; 18 Apr, Clinton (DeWitt Co) (TAM); 3 May, se. Winnebago Co (DTW). **MC**: 4, Sand Ridge State Forest (Mason Co), 18 May (KM); 2, The Hollows FP (McHenry Co), 9 May & 16 May (AS). One additional report: 10 May, w. Franklin Co (LS).

Savannah Sparrow

EA: 8 Mar (2), Johnson Co (KM); 16 Mar (3), Evanston (EW); 30 Mar (9), De Kalb Co (DFS); 3 Apr, s. of L Bracken (Knox Co) (DJM); 8 Apr (3), Rock Cut (DTW). **MC**: 100+, Levee Road (Monroe Co), 3 May (JPZ); 97, Livingston Co, 2 May (DFS); 40, Montrose H, 28 Apr (GAW). **LD**: 28 May (2), Grant P (DFS); 28 May (5), Montrose H (GAW); 28 May (5), Evanston (EW); 10 May (3), Carl.C (DMK). **Other**: late winter - 7 Mar, Wilmette (Cook Co) (EW).

Grasshopper Sparrow

EA: 14 Apr, Johnson Co (KM); 20 Apr, Evanston (EW); 8 May, Urbana (EC). **MC**: 20, Bureau Co, 10 May (DFS); 12, Carl.C, 10 May (DMK); 10, e. Knox Co, 10 May (DJM); 8, Orland Grasslands (Cook Co), 16 May (EW, WS); 6, airport at Rockfd, 10 May (DTW). **LD**: 19 May, JP (PC).

Henslow's Sparrow

EA: 14 Apr, Pulaski Co (KM); 16 Apr, JP (PC et al.; MO:ph.); 16 Apr, e. of Victoria (Knox Co) (DJM); 6 May, Rock Cut (DTW). **MC**: **26** (singing males), Goose L Prairie SNA (Grundy Co), 19 May (JC); 17, Union Co, 10 May (SDB); 9, Johnson Co, 1 May (KM); 6, Carl.C, 17 Mar (DMK); 3, e. Knox Co, 19 Apr (DJM). **LD**: 18 May, Decatur (TAM).

Le Conte's Sparrow

EA: 14 Apr, Pulaski Co (KM); 27 Apr, JP (PP); 28 Apr Montrose H (GAW). **MC**: 6, Clin.L, 12 Apr (DTW, IOS). **LD**: 15 May, Moraine Hills SP (McHenry Co) (KM); 13 May, Evanston (EW). **Others**: One second-hand report of a single in n. IL (Glenview, Cook Co) on the very early date of **23 Mar**; one very late in Cook Co, without details, on **31 May**. Late May reports should include sufficient details to exclude, in particular, Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow.

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow

EA: 17 May, Linc.P (m.ob. fide EW)—the only datum received!

Fox Sparrow

EA: **2 Feb**, Carl.L (KM)—earliest available migrant date for IL (and migrant status open to question in light of this year's near-absence of February migrants; see introductory paragraphs); 8 Mar, L Bracken (Knox Co) (DJM); 9 Mar (3), Busey Wds (EC); 15 Mar, widespread through n. IL (m.ob.). **MC**: 27, Grant P, 2 Apr (DFS); 23, IBSP, 5 Apr (DTW); 12, Busey Wds, 16 Mar (EC). **LD**: 20 Apr, JP (SLC); 29 Mar, Madison Co (FH); 21 Mar, Pomona (RSR); 20 Mar, Knox College (DJM).

Song Sparrow

EA: 6 Mar, Evanston (EW); 8 Mar, Greene Valley FP (Du Page Co) (MBC). **MC**: 128, Grant P, 17 Mar (DFS); 35, McDowell Grove FP (Du Page Co) 16 Mar (ES); 30, Carl.C, 15 Mar (DMK); 12, HL, 14 Mar (KM). **LD**: 30 May, Grant P (DFS). Few reports statewide.

Lincoln's Sparrow

EA: **4 Apr**, Grant P (DFS); 20 Apr (2), Linc.P (GAW); 29 Apr, Galesburg (Knox Co) (DJM); 1 May, Chinquapin Psv (MF); 2 May (2), n. of Little Swan L (Warren Co) (LLH); 3 May (2), Carl.C (DMK). **MC**: **53**, JP, 10 May (SLC et al.); 22, Evanston, 10 May (EW); 16, La Salle Co, 10 May (JEH); 12, Champaign Co, 10 May

(EC); 10, Bureau Co, 10 May (DFS); 2, Carl.C, 3 May (DMK). **LD**: **10 Jun**, Grant P (DFS)—second latest IL departure; 6 Jun, Linc.P (EW); 26 May, Rock Cut (DFS); 24 May, Elsen's Hill (Du Page Co) (ES); 17 May, Champaign Co (EC); 13 May, Madison Co (FH). Peak passage coincided with the 10 May SBC. Widely reported.

Swamp Sparrow

EA: 20 Mar (2), Montrose H (GAW); 20 Mar (2), e. Knox Co (DJM). **MC**: 135+, near St. Charles (Kane Co), 2 May (SDB); 105, Grant P, 28 Apr (DFS); 85+, Iroquois Co, 6 May (SDB); 44, Humiston Wds, 2 May (DFS); 30, Pulaski Co, 18 Apr (KM). **LD**: 28 May, JP (SLC); 28 May, Linc.P (GAW); 3 May, Carl.C (DMK); 23 Apr, Galesburg (Knox Co) (DJM).

White-throated Sparrow

EA: 21 Mar (3), Pomona (RSR); 26 Mar, Hidden L FP (Du Page Co) (MBC)—wintered locally?; 15 Apr, JP (PC). **MC**: **1380**, Grant P, 1 May (DFS)—**record IL high count**; 510, JP, 1 May (PC); 77 (under feeder), Rockfd, 30 Apr (DTW); 52, Ft Massac, 23 Apr (KM). **LD**: **13 Jun**, IIT campus, Chi (GAW); **5 Jun**, Middle Fork SFWA (Vermilion Co) (SDB); 23 May, Galesburg (Knox Co) (DJM); 18 May (2), Carl.C (DMK).

Harris's Sparrow

Three reports: **EA**: 6 May, JP (SLC); 11 May, Rockfd (DTW). **LD**: 18-19 May, Montrose H (MK, CH, *WM, JA, m.ob.).

White-crowned Sparrow

EA: 12 Apr (12), Carl.C (DMK); 23 Apr (3), Boone Co (AB, MAR); 23 Apr (2), Rask's Wetland (nc. Knox Co) (DJM); 27 Apr, Chinquapin Psv (MF); 28 Apr (4), Montrose H (GAW); 28 Apr (2), JP (SLC, PC). **MC**: 217, JP, 10 May (SLC et al.); 188, Evanston, 10 May (EW); 25, Champaign Co, 10 May (EC); 12, Carl.C, 12 Apr (DMK). **LD**: 7 Jun, JP (KC); 21 May, Galesburg (Knox Co) (DJM); 18 May, Busey Wds (EC); 10 May, Carbondale (Jackson Co) (RSR, CAr, RM). **Others** (locally wintering?): 3 Apr, JP (KC); 13 Apr (15), airport at Rockfd (DTW); 13 Apr, Granville Township (Putnam Co) (UG).

Dark-eyed Junco

EA: 8 Mar (8), Wheaton (Du Page Co) (ES). **MC**: 180, Grant P, 4 Apr (DFS); 120, Grundy Co, 22 Mar (DFS); 100, Crab Or., 7 Apr (KM); 20, Carl.C, 6 Mar & 8 Mar (DMK). **LD**: **1 Jun**, Rainbow Beach, Chi (*DFS); 8 May, M.Arb (MBC); 6 May, JP (SLC); 1 May, Knox College (DJM); 19 Apr (2), Carl.C (DMK); 19 Apr, HL (FH). "**Oregon Junco**": 23-29 Mar, Rockfd (DTW). "**Cassiar Junco**" (form *cismontanus*): **7+**, Evergreen L (McLean Co), 13 Mar (MLR); 2, Starved Rock SP (La Salle Co), 13 Mar (MLR).

Lapland Longspur

EA: 22 Mar, Evanston. **MC**: 1000, n. of Towanda (McLean Co), 30 Mar (MLR); 500, McLean Co, 6 Apr (JC); 125, Johnson Co, 22 Feb (KM, DMK, FB); 100, w. Lee Co, 19 Apr (DFS); 80, Carl.C, 15 Mar (DMK). **LD**: 11 Apr, McLean Co (KM). Almost no reports away from wintering grounds.

Smith's Longspur

EA: **2 Mar** (15), Decatur (TAM)—other than an anomalous record of 9 at Rend L on 10 Feb 1991, this is the earliest IL arrival. **MC**: 120+, n. of Towanda (McLean Co), 3 Apr (MLR); 40, e. Lee Co, 19 Apr (DFS); 15, se. Whiteside Co, 19 Apr (DFS); 10, Victoria (Knox Co), 30 Mar (DJM). **LD**: 12 Apr (11), Pr.Rdg (MAH); 11 Apr (4), McLean Co (KM); 11 Apr (2), s. Henry Co (DJM).

Snow Bunting

LD: 21 Mar, Montrose H (GAW)—the only report.

Northern Cardinal

MC: 73, Lee Co, 15 Mar (DFS); 50, Carl.C, 12 Apr (DMK); 30, Jackson Co, 10 May (RSR, CAr, RM); 26, Ft Massac, 23 Apr (KM).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

EA: 22 Apr, Madison Co (FH); 25 Apr, Adams Co (AD); 28 Apr, Rockfd (DTW); 28 Apr, Evanston (EW); 28 Apr, Montrose H (GAW). **MC**: 49, Bureau Co, 10 May (DFS); 32, JP, 10 May (BH et al.); 28, M.Arb, 10 May (ES); 15, Carl.C, 3 May (DMK); 14, Humiston Wds, 2 May (DFS); 8, Decatur, 5 May (TAM). **LD**: 1 Jun (female), Linc.P (GAW); 27 May, Wolf L, LCal (CM, MP); 27 May, JP (SLC). **Others**: **27 Mar** (2), Putnam Co—no details; the earliest spring migrant dates are from far s. IL in mid-April.

Blue Grosbeak

EA: 18 Apr, Johnson Co (KM); 27 Apr (imm. male), JP (SLC); 9 May, HL (FH). **MC**: 3, Jackson Co, 10 May (RSR, CAr, RM); 2, Crab Or., 1 May (KM); 2, East St. Louis (Madison Co), 22 May (KM, CL). **LD**: 28 May (2 males), Knox College (DJM); 19 May, M.Arb (ES); 17 May (female), Ewing P, Bloomington (McLean Co) (TEB). **Other**: **1-2 Mar** (imm. male), Palos area (CAl, GAW, m.ob.).

Indigo Bunting

EA: 15 Apr, Heron Pond (KM); 19 Apr, Carl.C (DMK); 1 May, Rockfd (DTW); 2 May, Adams Co (AD); 4 May, Boone Co (AB, MAR); 4 May, M.Arb (ES). **MC**: **331**, Union Co, 10 May (SDB)—**second highest IL spring count**; 74, Jackson Co, 10 May (RSR, CAr, RM); 65, Carl.C, 10 May (DMK); 34 (most likely on territory), Palos area, 26 May (EW); 31, Chi, 19 May (DFS); 12 (at feeder), Rockfd, 15 May (DTW). **LD**: 11 Jun (female), Linc.P (GAW); 10 Jun (2), Grant P (DFS); 9 Jun (male), Evanston (EW).

Painted Bunting

EA: 21-25 May (2 males—ad. and first-year), East St. Louis (Madison Co) (DMK, KM, FH et al.)—at site of breeding in recent years.

Dickcissel

EA: **15 Apr**, Adams Co—may have wintered (species seen at feeder on 24 Jan) (AD); 27 Apr, Johnson Co (KM); 3 May (15), St. Clair Co (DMK); 9 May (male), Evanston (EW); 10 May, Champaign Co (EC). **MC**: 77, Union Co, 24 May (KM); 48, Union Co, 10 May (SDB); 34, Effingham Co, 9 May (MAH); 30, Carl.C, 17-18 May (DMK). No data on departures or on counts greater than one outside s. IL.

Bobolink

EA: 26 Apr (6+), Clear Creek Levee Road (Union Co) (DJM); 1 May (5), Urbana (EC); 2 May (male), n. of Little Swan L (Warren Co) (LLH); 6 May (male), JP (PC). **MC**: **300**, Jackson Co, 8 May (VK, VL, RSR)—**record IL high count**; 60, Carl.C, 10 May (DMK); 30, Springbrook Prairie FP (Du Page Co), 10 May (JC); 30, Champaign Co, 10 May (EC); 29 (migrating south), Linc.P, 19 May; 13, Livingston Co, 2 May (DFS). **LD**: **11 Jun** (male), JP (KC); 28 May (male), JP (KC); 17 May (3), Carl.C (DMK); 12 May (5), St. Clair Co (KM).

Red-winged Blackbird

EA: 7 Mar (2), Boone Co (AB, MAR); 8 Mar, Tekakwitha Wds FP (Kane Co) (ES); 8 Mar, Roy C. Blackwell FP (Du Page Co) (UG). **MC**: 20,000, Carl.C, 15 Mar & 23 Mar (DMK); 900+ (mostly males), Evanston, 20 Apr (EW); 325, w. Fulton Co, 8 Mar (LLH); 250+, L Bracken (Knox Co) (DJM). Unusually tardy spring arrivals in n. IL.

Eastern Meadowlark

EA: 8 Mar (2), Bartel Grasslands (Cook Co) (EW); 12 Mar (male), JP (PC); 13 Mar, Busey Wds (EC); 16 Mar (2), Boone Co (AB, MAR). **MC**: 58, Lee Co, 19 Apr (DFS); 56, Pr.Rdg, 21 Mar (KM, CL); 51, Livingston Co, 2 May (DFS); 50, Carl.C, 12 Apr (DMK); 37, Ford Co, 5 Apr (DFS). **LD**: 8 Jun, Rainbow Beach, Chi (DFS); 15 Apr, JP (PC).

Western Meadowlark

EA: 15 Mar, Carl.C (DMK); 16 Mar, Monmouth sewage lagoons (Warren Co) (DJM); 30 Mar, De Kalb Co (DFS). **MC**: 6, Lee Co, 19 Apr (DFS); 6 (singing males), De Kalb Co, 10 May (DJS); 3, airport at Rockfd, 3 May (DTW); 3, Du Page Co Airport, 16 May (KM). **Others**: 6 May (male), nw. of Momence (Kankakee Co) (SDB); 14 May (male), near Hoopeston (Vermilion Co) (SDB).

Yellow-headed Blackbird

EA: 12 Apr (ad. male), Heyworth (McLean Co) (DTW, TAM); 15 Apr (male), Lake Forest (Lake Co) (JSg); 16 Apr, Eggers Wds, LCal (CM); 20 Apr (male), Evanston (EW); 26 Apr, Hennepin L (DFS, m.ob.); 10 May, Boone Co (AB, MAR). **MC**: **19**, Spring L (Carroll Co), 4 May (DTW)—highest spring count since decline of the LCal colony through the 1990s; 6 (singing males), Boone Co, 28 May (AB, MAR); 4, Paul Douglas FP (Cook Co), 20 May (DRD); 3 (males), Eggers Wds, LCal, 3 May (WM, CM); 3, Moraine Hills SP (McHenry Co), 15 May (KM). Traditional site at Hegewisch Marsh, LCal, overgrown after last fall's drought, and none seen there this spring. (WM).

Rusty Blackbird

EA: 19 Feb (81), Decatur (TAM); 8 Mar (2), Bartel Grasslands (Cook Co) (EW); 14 Mar, HL (FH); 20 Mar (13), Montrose H (GAW); 22 Mar (5), e. Stephenson Co (DTW). **MC**: 125, UCCA, 23 Mar (KM); 81, Decatur, 19 Feb (TAM); 58, Hennepin L, 14 Mar (DFS); 32, Lockport Prairie (Will Co), 22 Mar (CAl). **LD**: 30 Apr (2), Linc.P (GAW); 26 Apr (26), UCCA (KM, DMK, FB); 23 Apr, L Storey (Knox Co) (DJM).

Brewer's Blackbird

EA: 22 Mar (10), Carl.C (DMK); 22 Mar (3), e. Stephenson Co (DTW); 5 Apr, Iroquois Co (DFS); 6 Apr (5), Boone Co (AB, MAR). **MC**: 200, Carl.C, 30 Mar & 6 Apr (DMK); 150, Marion Co, 31 Mar (KM); 8, IBSP, 23 May (AS); 2, Evergreen L (McLean Co), 15 Mar (MLR). **LD**: 6 Apr, HL (FH).

Common Grackle

EA: 3 Mar, Urbana (EC); 8 Mar (2), Wheaton (Du Page Co) (ES); 8 Mar (male), Bushnell (McDonough Co) (LLH); 12 Mar (male), JP (PC); 14 Mar, Woodridge (Du Page Co) (UG). **MC**: **80,000**, Carl.C, 15 Mar (DMK)—second highest spring count on record; 10,000, ne. of Havana (Mason Co), 23 Mar (LLH); 2650, La Salle Co, 14 Mar (DFS); 350+, Evanston, 16 Mar (EW). Few reports.

GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE

LD: 10 May (female), 2 miles e. of Savanna (Carroll Co) (*JB:ph., SB)—**third accepted IL record** (one report of a bird in the Great-tailed/Boat-tailed Grackle superspecies remains under IORC review), and the first accepted for spring.

Brown-headed Cowbird
EA: 3 Mar (female), Galesburg (Knox Co) (DJM); 16 Mar (20), Evanston (EW); 27 Mar, Woodstock (McHenry Co) (DF); 2 Apr (46), Boone Co (AB, MAR). **MC**: 415, Ford Co, 5 Apr (DFS); 400, Carl.C, 23 Mar (DMK); 295, Hennepin L, 3 Apr (DFS); 113, JP, 1 Apr (PC).

Orchard Oriole
EA: **17 Apr**, Mermet L (KM); 26 Apr (2), Giant City SP (Jackson Co) (DJM); 28 Apr (first-year male), McGinnis Slough, Palos area (WS); 3 May, Champaign Co (EC); 5 May, Rockfd (DTW). **MC**: **29**, Union Co, 10 May (SDB)—**second highest IL spring count**; **24**, sw. Union Co, 10 May (VK, MTB); 4, Montrose H, 19 May & 20 May (GAW). **LD**: 2 Jun (pair), JP (KC).

Baltimore Oriole
EA: 17 Apr, Ft Massac (KM); 21 Apr (2), Carl.C (DMK); 25 Apr, Adams Co (AD); 28 Apr, Montrose H (GAW); 1 May, Rockfd (DTW); 1 May, Boone Co (AB, MAR). **MC**: 40, JP, 10 May (PC et al.); 34, Rosehill Cemetery (Cook Co), 13 May (DFS); 31, Pecatonica, 10 May (DTW); 15, Carl.C, 10 May (DMK). **LD**: 6 Jun (2 in southbound migration), Linc.P (EW); 2 Jun (2), IIT campus, Chi (GAW); 1 Jun (3), Rainbow Beach, Chi (DFS).

Purple Finch
EA: 20 Mar (female), Montrose H (GAW, BH); 20 Mar, Spoon L (DJM)—the only report outside ne. IL. **LD**: **4 Jun** (pair), JP (KC)—**record late date** and the only report greater than one; 21 May (male), JP (KC); 14 May, M.Arb (MBC). A few other singles in Cook and Du Page Cos. In the years 1988-1992, several dates in June and later suggest potential summering birds rather than late migrants.

House Finch
EA: 23 Mar (18 migrating south), Evanston (EW). **MC**: 36, Evanston, 10 May (EW); 21, Westchester (Cook Co), 20 Apr (DFS); 18, Evanston, 23 Mar (EW); 10, Carl.C, 19 Apr (DMK). Numbers still low in s. IL after West Nile Virus in 2002 (KM).

Pine Siskin
EA: 13 Mar (2), Evergreen L (McLean Co) (MLR)—the only report!

American Goldfinch
EA: 10 Apr, Grant P (DFS). **MC**: 144, LCal, 23 May (DFS); 131, Springbrook Prairie FP (Du Page Co), 10 May (JC); 88, Bureau Co, 10 May (DFS); 47, Jackson Co, 18 Apr (KM); 40, Carl.C, 19 Apr (DMK).

House Sparrow
MC: 390, Evanston, 10 May (EW), 200, Carl.C, 23 Mar (DMK); Westchester (Cook Co), 20 Apr (DFS); 120, Grundy Co, 22 Mar (DFS).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow
MC: 8, Meredosia L (Morgan Co), 30 Apr (KM); 6, Montgomery Co, 10 May (RJ); 5, sw. of Lincoln (Logan Co), 30 Apr (DFS); 5, Mark Twain NWR (Calhoun Co), 27 May (DMK); 4, s. of L Bracken (Knox Co), 20 Apr (DJM).

EXOTICS

Trumpeter Swan
EA: 5 Jan-28 Feb (2--ad. & imm.), Miller P, Bloomington (McLean Co) (MLR); 2 Feb-15 Mar, Wolf L, LCal (WM et al.)--six-year-old male banded at Hickory Corners, Michigan (band #29101), fide CM (WM). **MC**: 3, HL, 2-7 Mar (FD). **LD**: 7 Apr (imm.), L Kakusha, Mendota (LaSalle Co) (JEH); 2-7 Mar (3), HL (FH). This species may eventually be readmitted to the IL list as a viable, feral species, depending on the continued success of re-introduced migratory populations in states north of IL. Observers are encouraged to continue reporting on this species' status in IL.

Great Tit
Apr-June (pair, at feeder), Harvard (McHenry Co) (*DF:ph.).

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